

## NEW TELEPRINTER AVIATION AID

Installation of an automatic teleprinter-message switching system at Vancouver International Airport, an important advance in the efficiency and speed of Canada's aviation communications network, is now under way.

The Vancouver installation is the first of seven to be established at major Canadian airports within the next two years by the Transport Department to form a trans-Canada system. The others will be at Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Goose Bay and Gander. The equipment will be provided by Canadian National Telecommunications on a rental contract basis. The design of the system is by CNT, in co-operation with the producers, Philips Electronic Equipment Limited of Toronto.

## PART OF WORLD NET

This high-speed switching system will form part of a world-wide integrated communication network operated in accordance with standards established by the International Civil Aviation Organization. Message procedures recently adopted by ICAO permit the automation of this network, and Canada will be among the first countries to introduce such modern equipment.

The speedy handling of aviation messages will be of great safety value, and as regards the regularity and efficiency of air services. It will enable Canada to meet its international communication responsibilities and to continue to serve domestic aviation in a satisfactory manner.

## SAVINGS IN TIME AND MOTION

The high-speed automatic switching system will permit messages to be relayed within seconds and will eliminate delays previously encountered at points of retransmission. Existing operations require retransmission centres to receive messages in punched-paper tape. These have to be torn off by attendants who read the destinations printed and must walk to-and-fro between receiving and transmitting machines. Tape multiplication machines must also be employed because many destinations are involved for these messages and separate tapes are normally necessary for each circuit. Under the new system, a seated attendant merely reads message destinations and presses a routing button. Messages are transmitted automatically to all destinations. When a circuit is busy, an electro-magnetic "memory" will automatically store incoming messages in order of importance. When the traffic burden becomes light enough, it will automatically transmit the messages in their proper order to their destination.

The step to fully-automatic message relay is technically a small one, and Department of Transport planning already covers this conversion. The main change required is that a routing register, rather than an attendant, will now read the incoming-message destinations and decide on the required outgoing routes by consulting an electronic brain in the system.

When the complete system has been established, it will give the nation one of the most advanced aviation-communications systems of the world.

## CANADIAN PROJECTS IN WEST INDIES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs has announced the beginning of construction on four primary schools on the islands of Antigua, Dominica and Grenada and on two warehouses on St. Lucia and St. Kitts under the Canadian external-aid programme to assist Caribbean countries to reach the educational and industrial standards necessary for further economic progress.

The schools vary in size to meet the requirements of each community. However, St. Patrick's School at Sauteurs, Grenada, where 28,000 square feet of accommodation will be provided for classroom, home-craft, handicraft and library facilities, is fairly representative. St. John's school at Gouyave, Grenada, is designed to accommodate 800 pupils, as is Goodwill School at Roseau in Dominica. The Jennings school in Antigua is designed for an enrollment of 500 pupils, with a home economics room for girls, a handicrafts room for boys and a library.

## A SHARED PROJECT

These buildings will assist in meeting an urgent need for improved educational facilities in the Leeward and Windward Islands. In addition to responsibility for designing and constructing the schools, Canada will also supply all the furnishings. The schools will be constructed of prefabricated parts manufactured in Canada; the design specifications have taken into account such local factors as intense periodic rainfall, hurricanes, earthquake glare and heat. The local governments of the islands will also contribute to the projects through the provision of local transportation, and construction equipment, and the supply of aggregate for the foundations. Local labour will be used in carrying out the building programme.

Work has also begun on the construction of a warehouse at the port of Castries on St. Lucia and an airport freight-shed at Basseterre on St. Kitts. A contract worth approximately \$1 million for the construction of the schools and warehouses has been awarded to Sirotek Construction Limited of Ottawa, and the building programme is expected to be completed within 12 months.

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## STAMPS FOR 1964

A detailed schedule of Canada's 1964 postage stamp issues was recently made public by the new Postmaster General, Mr. John R. Nicholson.

As with the majority of stamps scheduled to appear between now and 1967, nearly all the 1964 issues will be related to the centennial year. The Charlottetown Conference will be the subject of a five-cent stamp to be issued on July 29, and on September 9 another of the same denomination, commemorating the Quebec Conference, will go on sale.

## PROVINCIAL FLORAL EMBLEMS

A five-cent stamp bearing a design of maple leaves will appear on May 14, the first of a series depicting the floral emblems of the provinces. Two other five-