

### Mr. Trudeau to visit Europe

Prime Minister Trudeau has accepted invitations to make official visits in March to the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and Britain. An audience with Pope Paul VI is scheduled for the Prime Minister during his stay in Rome.

Mr. Trudeau will be in Bonn on March 3 and 4; Rome, March 5 and 6; The Vatican, March 7; The Hague, March 10 and 11; and London, March 12 and 13.

### Manitoban helps establish Australian national health system

A senior official in the Manitoba Health Services Commission (MHSC) will spend six months in Australia, starting this month, advising the Australian Government in establishing a national health insurance plan, Manitoba Health and Social Development Minister Saul Miller announced recently.

Mr. Miller said that Robert H. Harvey, chief health information officer in the commission, would be in Australia until June, serving as a consultant with the Australia Health Insurance Commission.

"Every medical insurance system produces a very large body of data from physicians' claims, billings and registration of persons covered under the plan," he explained.

"To operate the system accurately and efficiently, the managers of the insurance plan must know how to interpret and analyze this enormous and continuous flow of information.

"Mr. Harvey will advise the Australian commission in one general area, medical claims, helping them to set up an efficient operations monitoring system."

The Australia Health Insurance Commission will have some similarities to and parallels with the Manitoba Health Services Commission. However, the Australian health insurance plan, scheduled to begin on July 1, 1975, will be operated nationally, whereas in Canada medical insurance plans are operated by the provinces. The Manitoba plan serves a population of about 1,040,000, while the Australia federal plan will cover about 17 million.

Mr. Miller said that the seconding of Mr. Harvey stems from a visit to North America made in 1973 by a delegation from Australia to study health insurance plans in Canada and the United States. In Canada, they looked at plans as they operate in all ten provinces.

### Aerosat agreement signed in U.S.

An agreement to establish an aeronautical satellite capability (Aerosat Space Segment Program) for use in an intergovernmental aeronautical satellite experimentation and evaluation program was signed in Washington last month by the European Space Research Organization (ESRO), Comsat General Corporation and the Government of Canada.

The Program covers the design, development, procurement and operation of two satellites over the Atlantic Ocean. The first satellite is planned for launch in 1978 by a *Delta 3914* vehicle. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) covering the intergovernmental aeronautical satellite program was signed earlier this year by ESRO, the U.S. Department of Transport/Federal Aviation Agency (DOT/FAA) and the Government of Canada. In addition to calling for the establishment of a space-segment capability, the MOU includes a co-ordinated program comprising the design, manufacture and operation of user ground facilities, avionics, the preparation of the test program and the operation of suitably equipped aircraft. These activities are the responsibility of ESRO, DOT/FAA and Canada.

Under the new agreement ESRO, Comsat General and Canada will furnish the space-segment capability for the intergovernmental program.

### Commission of inquiry into Canadian beef marketing system

The Prime Minister announced on January 7 the appointment of a commission to inquire into the marketing of all grades of beef and veal sold in Canada. Maxwell W. Mackenzie of Ottawa has been named chairman and Mrs. Lydia Patry-Cullen of Montreal and Dr. Hu Harries of Edmonton, members.

The commission will examine the marketing system for beef and veal in Canada, taking into account each step in the distribution and processing system and any differences across the country, and will submit to the Government recommendations for improvement.

Appointment of the commission of inquiry, the Prime Minister noted, arises out of the Government's concern, as expressed on a number of occasions by the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, about a situation where prices being paid by consumers for beef and veal seem to be high in relation to producer returns and may not fully reflect price variations at the producer level. The commission will take into account the recent work of the Food Prices Review Board in this area.

Mr. Mackenzie's experience relates to business generally. Mrs. Patry-Cullen's experience relates to merchandising, with emphasis on consumer problems and Dr. Harries' background provides particular knowledge of the producer's problems in beef and veal marketing.

### Olympic Action stamps

Postmaster-General Bryce Mackasey has announced the issue on February 5 of three additional Olympic Action stamps, the second set of surcharged stamps to be issued by the Canada Post Office.

The denominations of the new four-colour stamps, which depict swimming,



rowing and sailing, are 8 cents plus 2 cents surcharge, 10 cents plus 5 cents surcharge and 15 cents plus 5 cents surcharge.

When the Action stamp is sold by a post office, the net proceeds from the