

change-over will be set taking into account the time needed to develop, produce and install new selectors.

SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENT AID

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, announced on December 23 that the Canadian Government would contribute, subject to Parliamentary approval, \$25,000 to the United Nations programme for the education and training abroad of South Africans.

The programme is designed primarily to provide educational opportunities abroad for the inhabitants of South Africa. Under this programme, which was established according to a resolution adopted by the Security Council in June 1964, grants are being provided for studies in law, teaching, medicine, nursing, hospital administration, accountancy, book-keeping and physical and social sciences.

RCN ORDERS NEW SHIPS

Mr. C.M. Drury, Minister of Industry, recently announced the award of a \$47.5-million contract to a Saint John, New Brunswick, shipbuilding firm for the construction of two operational support ships for the Royal Canadian Navy.

Building will begin next spring and both ships, the *Protecteur* and the *Preserver*, are scheduled for completion in the latter part of 1969. The ships will provide operational support to the Navy's anti-submarine vessels on operational patrol at sea. Each will have the ability to transport and transfer at sea, fuel and lubricating oil in excess of 12,000 tons. They will have an additional capacity to replenish some 1,250 tons of ammunition, stores and provisions.

Both will carry spare anti-submarine helicopters for the fleet and will be capable of providing "in depth maintenance" to the Navy's helicopter destroyers. The vessels will also have a limited sea-lift capability for army vehicles, helicopters, stores and accompanying maintenance personnel. The addition of these two vessels will enable RCN ships to remain at sea for a considerably longer period than is now possible.

SPECIFICATIONS

Of identical construction, the ships are 564 feet in length, 76 feet wide and have a loaded displacement of 22,000 tons. They will be powered to maintain a cruising speed of 20 knots while fully loaded.

In commenting upon the contract award, Mr. Drury said that the order is the largest ever placed with a Canadian shipyard. "The fact that both the *Protecteur* and the *Preserver* will be constructed in the same yard represents a much more efficient arrangement than would have been possible if separate contracts had been awarded. As a result of competitive tenders, I am confident that important savings in time as well as cost will be realized."