

SEAWAY PREPARES FOR WINTER

The "Rockcliffe Hall," a Canadian canaller, was the last ship to clear the St. Lawrence Seaway, as the first full season of operation of the locks and channels between Lake Ontario and Montreal came to a close on the afternoon of December 3. The 252-foot ship, with a gross tonnage of 2,262 tons, cleared St. Lambert Lock for Montreal Harbour at 4:40 p.m.

The last ocean ship to clear was the Norwegian "Saltvik", which cleared the St. Lambert Lock downbound at 2:44 p.m., under tow.

The St. Lawrence Seaway Authority kept the locks open for several days more to allow the passage of buoy tenders from Prescott, Ontario, and Sorel, Quebec, which were lifting the floating aids to navigation that had guided ships through the channels during the 1959 season. These aids are removed each fall for inspection and maintenance, and because the action of ice might damage them or carry them off position during the winter. They are re-placed in charted positions in the spring.

In a programme of inspection and maintenance, it is expected that the four locks in Quebec will be unwatered during the winter, and possibly the Iroquois Lock as well. Valves and other machinery will be inspected and reconditioned as necessary, walls will be examined and requisite repairs made.

Some dredging may continue for a while in channels north and south of Cornwall Island in the International Rapids Section, but contractors will probably not continue after Christmas, or may cease operations earlier if weather conditions dictate.

UNEF CHIEF TO OTTAWA POST

Prime Minister Diefenbaker announced recently the appointment of Lieutenant General E.L.M. Burns as Government Adviser on Disarmament. The resignation of General Burns from the command of the United Nations Emergency Force was simultaneously announced in New York by the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Dag Hammarskjold.

General Burns will assume his new duties in Ottawa as soon as he has taken leave of his command in Gaza. He will be responsible for advising the Government on all disarmament matters and will represent Canada in international discussions and negotiations relating to disarmament questions.

At his first formal international assignment, General Burns will serve as Canadian Representative on the new Ten-Power Disarmament Committee, which is expected to begin its work in Geneva early in the new year. The establishment of this Committee was announced on September 7, 1959, as a result of an agreement reached between France, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Union of Soviet

Socialist Republics. Canada and Italy complete the five-nation Western side; Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Rumania will be the remaining members on the Soviet side.

The Canadian Government believes that the new Disarmament Committee will provide a forum in which realistic and serious negotiations on disarmament can be conducted. The appointment of a Canadian of General Burns' wide experience is a measure of the high importance which the Government attaches to the work of the Committee and to Canada's part in it.

General Burns was born in Westmount, Quebec, on June 17, 1897. He was educated at Lower Canada College, Montreal, and graduated from the Royal Military College, Kingston, in 1915.

After a long and notable military career, including command of the First Canadian Corps in Italy in the Second World War, General Burns was named Director General of Rehabilitation in the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1945. He became Assistant Deputy Minister in 1946 and was appointed Deputy Minister of that Department in 1950, an appointment which he held for five years.

In 1949 General Burns served as Alternate Representative on the Canadian Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly. During the years 1952-53, he was National President of the United Nations Association in Canada.

In 1955 General Burns began a distinguished period of service with the United Nations, filling first the post of Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine and, from 1956, that of Commander of the United Nations Emergency Force.

RCAF TEAM STUDY IN U.S.

It was recently announced that a six-man team of Canadians, headed by Squadron Leader R.E. Churchill of the RCAF, had arrived at the System Development Corporation (SDC) in Santa Monica, California, where they would work closely with the corporation's staff on air defence computer programmes relating to the Canadian portions of the SAGE system.

The team is expected to spend at least two years in Santa Monica.

SAGE uses a network of high-speed digital computers to provide up to the minute information on the more than 70,000 aerial flights that take place daily in the U.S. and Canada. These electronic computers must be "told what to do" and their instructions, called programmes, must be written by humans.

S/L Churchill and his staff will take part in this human direction work. At the same time they will become familiar with many other aspects of computer-programming work and be in a position to advise the RCAF in the coming era of SAGE in Air Defence.