

RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, announced on February 14 that the Canadian Government had extended recognition to the independent state of Bangladesh and to the Government of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Prime Minister Trudeau has sent the following message to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh:

I am happy to inform you that Canada has today accorded full recognition to Bangladesh as an independent state. On behalf of the Government and people of Canada, I wish to extend greetings and best wishes to you and your Government. It is our sincere desire that harmonious and mutually beneficial relations may develop between our two countries and that these relations will be enhanced through an association within the Commonwealth.

In making this announcement, Mr. Sharp observed that it had been evident for some time that a new state was emerging in what was East Pakistan. With the usual legal criteria of an independent government in effective control of a defined territory having been substantially met, as many states have already recognized, the only matter that remained in doubt was the timing. In weighing all consequences, the Government took careful account of the problems facing the Government of Pakistan from whose nation the new state was formed. The Canadian Government hoped, said Mr. Sharp, that both Pakistan and Bangladesh would be members of the Commonwealth.

Arrangements are currently being made for the opening of diplomatic relations with the new state. It is expected that initially a Canadian ambassador from a neighbouring country will be dually accredited to Bangladesh and that his staff will make frequent visits to Dacca.

NAC ORCHESTRA IN NEW YORK

The National Arts Centre Orchestra will give its first major concert outside Canada on February 27, under the direction of its conductor, Mario Bernardi, in Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, New York.

Mr. Bernardi, who began his musical career as a concert pianist, will be the soloist in the Ravel *Concerto in G*, and the young Toronto harpist Erica Goodman will be soloist in a work by Harry Somers, one of Canada's best-known composers.

The full program will consist of the *Fantasia Concertante on a Theme by Corelli* by Michael Tippett, the *Piano Concerto in G* by Ravel, the *Suite for Harp and Chamber Orchestra* by Somers, and the *Symphony No. 8 in F* by Beethoven.

The 44-member ensemble, formed late in 1969 as the resident orchestra of the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, has already toured extensively in Canada. It also gave three concerts at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, in June and July of 1970.

The Orchestra is now in its third season. In its fourth in May 1973, it has been engaged to open the Bath (England) Festival, to participate in the Llandaff (Wales) Festival, as well as to give concerts in Bristol and London.

Mr. Bernardi's performance on February 27 will mark his New York debut as a pianist. His conducting debut took place in August of 1970, when he directed two concerts at Lincoln Center in the "Mostly Mozart" series of musical events. He has since conducted three operas for the New York City Opera Company.

SEAL HUNT PHASE-OUT RECOMMENDED

Mr. Jack Davis, Minister of the Environment, recently released the interim report of his special advisory committee on Atlantic seals, and will send it to the House of Commons Committee on Fisheries and Forestry for study and recommendation.

Last year, Mr. Davis asked Professor Keith Ronald, dean of the College of Biological Science, University of Guelph, Ontario, to set up a committee to study the seal herd. Other members are: T.I. (Tom) Hughes, director, Ontario Humane Society, Trevor H. Scott, International Society for the Protection of Animals, Dr. H. Rowsell, Canadian Council on Animal Care, Kjell Henriksen, Canadian member of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries and Professor H.D. Fisher, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia.

The committee recommended that there be:

- (1) A phase-out of the Canadian and Norwegian Atlantic seal hunt by 1974, followed by a minimum six-year moratorium on hunting;
- (2) no increase in exploitation of seals in any other area in the world, especially in the Antarctic;
- (3) immediate institution of a research program covering
 - (a) compensation to those affected by the abolition of hunting;
 - (b) expanded biological and related studies of the harp, hooded and other species of seal in Canada;
 - (c) development of satisfactory guide-lines for the protection and management of the seal population;
 - (d) development of improved methods for taking seals.

"I'm impressed by the quality of the report," Mr. Davis said, "and quite certain the Government will be following it up with effective action of its own."

The Ottawa Little Theatre, gutted by fire July 1, 1970, reopened on February 10, 1972 in its new building erected on the original site.