

AID TO NIGERIA

On July 31, in accordance with the July 12 statement by Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, that the Canadian Government was ready to contribute food aid to those areas of Nigeria affected by the current fighting (see Canadian Weekly Bulletin, No. 31, P.3), Prime Minister Trudeau announced that \$500,000 had been provided for the purchase of food, drugs and medical supplies. Canada would help pay the cost of transportation to Nigeria, the Prime Minister added.

His announcement continued as follows:

...Because of the urgency with which these relief supplies are needed in Nigeria, the Government has agreed to make available a Hercules aircraft of the Canadian Armed Forces to transport an initial shipment of these supplies from Canada to Nigeria. This aircraft will be taking off for Nigeria as soon as flight arrangements can be completed. Subsequent use of this aircraft and of a second Canadian Armed Forces Hercules on standby in Canada will be determined in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

This aid is in addition to the cash grant of \$60,000 which the Canadian Government gave the

International Committee of the Red Cross in May for use in those areas of Nigeria where the need was greatest.

The introduction of relief supplies to the areas of serious need in Nigeria continues to be delayed through the failure of the parties to the dispute to agree on distribution arrangements.

The Canadian Government urgently appeals to the disputants to reach the earliest possible agreement on a land corridor which will alone provide the practical means of distributing food and other relief supplies at the required level to the affected areas.

Discussions were held with the Canadian Red Cross to determine what items were most needed and could be provided by Canada. The Canadian relief supplies not carried on the initial airlift by aircraft of the Canadian Armed Forces will be transported by commercial means to points agreed on with the International Committee of the Red Cross, which, it is generally agreed, is the most appropriate agency to co-ordinate international relief operations in areas of need in Nigeria. The ICRC will be responsible for the distribution of this Canadian relief contribution within the affected areas of Nigeria.

MILITARY BANDS REVAMPED

The full-time professional bands of Canada's regular armed forces are to be reorganized. The 17 bands, totalling 792 musicians, will be consolidated into nine bands of 555 musicians. Under the former tri-service organization, the full-time bands were unevenly distributed throughout Canada, some areas having the services of more than one. The new plan provides for the relocation of some bands.

In addition, bands now maintained on a voluntary basis by about 40 units will be retained, and greater help will be given them by the assignment of permanent music instructors. Among the volunteer bands are the bugle band of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and the pipes and drums of the Black Watch.

The reorganization will begin this summer, strength reductions taking place gradually as normal retirements occur.

The National Band of the Canadian Armed Forces in Ottawa will be the largest, with 92 musicians. Other bands will vary in size from 55 to 66. The policy of having a full-time band with the brigade in Germany on a two-year tour of duty will be discontinued when the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps Band returns to Canada this summer. Overseas units, like those in Canada, will keep their voluntary bands, and one of the full-time bands will be sent over for special occasions.

BANDS AFFECTED

Canadian Armed Forces bands under the new reorganization are:

- Canadian Forces Stadacona Band, Halifax
- Musique du Royal 22e Régiment, Quebec City

National Band of the Canadian Armed Forces, Ottawa

Royal Canadian Regiment Band, London (Ontario)

Training Command Band, Winnipeg

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Band, Calgary

Canadian Forces Naden Band, Esquimalt (British Columbia).

There will also be a band in Montreal replacing the Black Watch Military Band and one in Kingston replacing the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals Band. The names of these two reorganized bands will be announced later.

The following are being disbanded:

HMCS Cornwallis Band, CFB Cornwallis (Nova Scotia)

Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps Band, Europe

Canadian Guards Band, CFB Petawawa (Ontario)

Royal Canadian Dragoons Band, CFB Galetown (New Brunswick)

Royal Canadian Artillery Band, Halifax

Royal Canadian Horse Artillery Band, Winnipeg

Lord Strathcona's Horse Band, Calgary

Royal Canadian Engineers Band, CFB Chilliwack (B.C.)

The RCAF Central Band Ottawa has been reorganized under the name "The National Band of the Canadian Armed Forces".

The value of Canada's exports in May rose to \$1,175,625,000 from \$1,039,222,000 in May 1967 and \$909,967,000 in the 1966 month. Exports for the cumulative period also rose to \$5,260,003,000 from \$4,469,817,000 in 1967 and \$3,842,283,000 in 1966.