

of Manitrade, who said that the Izmir International Trade Fair was sponsored by the federal Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, noted that the Canadian Trade Commissioners staff in Ankara had been instrumental in bringing the contracts to Manitoba.

"All shipments have been airfreighted via the new direct CP Air flight from Winnipeg to Amsterdam, where a connection is made with Turkish Airlines to Ankara," said Mr. Armstrong. "This factor is important for Harco's delicate equipment, since it provides a fast link to connecting overseas carriers and reduces handling of the cargo to a minimum."

Manitrade, an agency of the Manitoba Department of Industry and Commerce, has been successful in selling Harco Electronics' products in Mexico, Venezuela, Cuba, Spain, Italy, South Africa, and the Peoples' Republic of China.

Canada student loans plan

Finance Minister Donald S. Macdonald announced in January that loans totalling \$129,660,142 to 140,644 students were authorized under the Canada Student Loans Plan during the year July 1, 1974 to June 30, 1975. During the previous year, loans totalling \$115,773,679 to 125,987 students were authorized.

Since the plan began in 1964, the nine participating provinces and two territories have issued some 1,209,101 certificates of eligibility amounting to \$843 million.

Operation of the plan

The Canada Student Loans Plan provides Government-guaranteed bank loans to students who need assistance to continue full-time studies beyond the secondary school level.

Loans may be authorized by partici-

pating provincial authorities up to \$1,400 a year or, for students enrolled in institutions operating on the trimester system, to a maximum of \$700 a semester where the semester forms part of a longer program of studies. The maximum a student may borrow under the program is \$9,800.

The Government pays the interest charges on loans while borrowers are in full-time study and for a further six months. The borrower then assumes repayment of both principal and interest over a period of up to nine-and-a-half years. The rate of interest to be charged is negotiated between the borrower and the bank, subject to a maximum rate established under a formula agreed with the banks and in effect since August 1968. The formula provides for a maximum rate of 1 percent above the current average yield of Government of Canada securities maturing in five to ten years.

The province of Quebec, which does not participate in this plan operates its own program of student aid. Quebec receives an alternative payment from the Federal Government of a share of the cost to the Government of interest payments and claims for loss in respect of loans advanced in participating provinces. In 1975, Quebec received \$12,708,115 under the arrangement.

Music successes overseas

The Orford String Quartet recently returned from a successful tour of the U.S.S.R., Romania, Yugoslavia and Italy.

In Bucharest, the ensemble drew an unusually large crowd and were called back to perform two encores. This recital was broadcast over the Romanian radio and television network.

The Orford Quartet won the 1974 European Broadcasting Union Competition and has gained a considerable reputation overseas. Another European series of concerts is planned for the spring.

An External Affairs grant assisted the Canadian contemporary music ensemble, the Lyric Trio, in a one-month tour of Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland, plus engagements in Brussels, Paris and London. Bob Aitken, flute, Mary Morrison soprano, and Marion Ross, piano, were heard in a series of

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concerts and masterclasses during their autumn tour. Several of their performances were broadcast.

John Hendrickson of Edmonton, Alberta, recently won third prize at the International Chopin Festival in Warsaw, a competition held every five years.

Mr. Hendrickson's performance was particularly popular with the Polish audience. He also received a special award from the Polish Music Critics' Association. Organizers of the Chopin Festival have arranged a series of concerts in Poland for Hendrickson.

Communications Technology Satellite (Continued from P. 2)

lite means smaller, more portable, less costly antennas on earth. With a dish as small as a metre in diameter, and with the cost of an entire ground station eventually reduced to that of a colour television set, the possibilities for "person to person" communication are remarkable.

Whether it be through the experimental transmission of a native newspaper by facsimile to a number of remote locations; providing diagnosis or medical staff training and supervision from a distance; enabling students in widely separated classrooms to share the same professor and course; or extending the horizons of broadcasting, CTS is a major Canadian achievement.

The challenge of designing and building such a complex spacecraft to operate reliably for two years has been compared to building a colour TV set that will work flawlessly for 1,000 years without need of repair.

Whether or not CTS ultimately meets that challenge fully, Canadians have moved another step forward in putting communications technology at the service of humanity.

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