

SECURITY AND MBFR DISCUSSIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced recently two important steps taken by Canada, in concert with its friends and allies, to open a further phase in the continuing process of negotiation that is aimed at lowering tensions and increasing security and co-operation in Europe and throughout the world.

The first of these steps was the acceptance of an invitation from the Government of Finland to all European states, Canada and the United States to attend multilateral preparatory talks on the question of holding a conference on security and co-operation in Europe. These talks began on November 22 in Helsinki, where Canada was represented by its Ambassador, Ernest Coté. The Canadian aim is to establish whether enough common ground exists to warrant reasonable expectations that a conference would produce satisfactory results.

The second, and complementary, step was the

extension by Canada of a formal invitation on November 15 to Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary and the U.S.S.R., in concert with the Governments of Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the U.S.A. to participate in exploratory talks on mutual balanced force reductions in Central Europe. In addition, the Government of the Federal Republic communicated the same invitation to the German Democratic Republic. It is proposed that these exploratory talks begin on January 31, 1973, at a site yet to be decided.

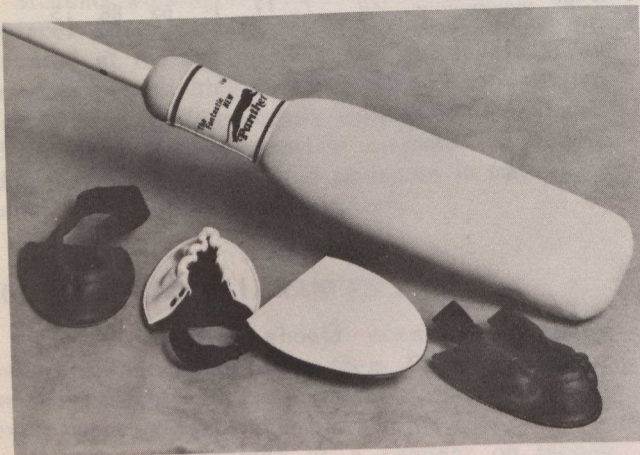
Those two separate but related steps will, it is hoped, pave the way for two parallel sets of negotiations which may lead to further progress in *détente* and to a reduction of the military confrontation in Europe and, in co-operation with the countries of Europe, Canada will participate fully in these negotiations and endeavour to make a positive contribution to their successful conclusion.

NEW BROOM SWEEPS CLEAN

The number of Canadians interested in curling – the roaring game – has been estimated at 20,000. Basically, it has changed little since its beginnings in Scotland, the most noticeable differences being in attire, particularly sweaters and boots designed for more comfort, warmth and freedom of movement.

A more recent innovation that has made big inroads into curling rinks in the past few years is the "composition" broom. One that has proved popular in Western Canada and the northern United States is the *Panther*, made by Thompson Broom Manufacturers of St. Boniface, Manitoba.

Developed by Al Thompson, himself a curler, the broom is guaranteed for 40 games, an average curling season.



The *Panther* broom has a hardwood handle with a laminated belting-spring to give it a "flip". It is padded with one inch of polyurethane foam and covered with a nylon knitted sock.

Although the *Panther* sells at a price slightly higher than the conventional corn-straw broom, the manufacturer claims it is cheaper in the long run because of its 40-game guarantee and because its parts are completely replaceable and are sold individually or in kits.

Mr. Thompson says that, while the composition broom has achieved significant acceptance, there is still disagreement about effect on the game. He claims, however, that the broom "breaks in" easily and that, after using one for about three games, a curler usually adjusts his style and sweeping method to the action of this type of broom.

Rink-owners find the composition broom a boon because it leaves no debris, thereby simplifying ice-cleaning. Straw dropped by conventional brooms is ground into the ice surface by the curling stones. To clean the ice then requires steaming and scrubbing – a job that can take five men as long as 20 minutes.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT HISTORY

Dr. Fraser Isbester, Chairman of the Personnel and Industrial Relations area at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, has been commissioned to write the official history of the Canada Department of Labour. The account, covering the years 1900 to 1975, is expected to be a scholarly social, economic and political record of the Federal Government's role in Canada's industrial relations system.

A leading authority on industrial relations in Canada, Professor Isbester is the author of a number of articles, reports and books on the subject. He is taking a year's leave of absence from McMaster to carry out the project.