

EXTRA GIFT TO WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, has announced a special supplementary contribution to the World Food Program of \$10,800,000 in wheat and flour and \$2,700,000 in cash. This brings Canada's contribution to the WFP for the years 1969 and 1970 to \$27 million in food aid and \$5,200,000 in cash.

The World Food Program, established by the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization, began operation in 1963. Its activities are devoted to the support of the economic and social development of countries in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. More than 80 countries now belong to the WFP. Canada played a major role in the establishment of the Program and is the second largest donor to it.

Canada's latest contribution will help the WFP feed school-children and provide food to workers and their families engaged in developed projects. It will also support families taking part in resettlement programs until they are able to provide for their own needs. Canada's contribution will also bring further resources to the WFP for emergency aid to victims of famine and natural disasters.

NEW ARCTIC SCHOOL

A new occupational and secondary school, of unique design, will be constructed at Frobisher Bay on Baffin Island in Canada's Eastern Arctic. Mr. Arthur Laing, Minister of Public Works, and Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, who made the joint announcement, said that the construction contract, worth \$2,957,000, was awarded to two Quebec firms, which would undertake the project as a joint venture. Funds are being provided by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development which will operate the new high school, the first in the Baffin area.

Some 475 students, mainly Eskimos from Baffin Island and the Keewatin Region, will be enrolled when the school opens in the autumn of 1971. The curriculum will be suited to the needs of northern students. About 100 will take regular secondary courses; 375 will be occupational students, whose academic level has been limited because of the remote areas in which they live. As higher grades are attained, these occupational courses will be gradually phased into a vocational program.

At present, students from Baffin Island attend school in Churchill, Manitoba.

MATERIALS AND DESIGN

Unusual materials and novel design will be used, which may revolutionize construction, not only in the North but in other remote parts of Canada which are subject to severe weather conditions. One feature is the light weight of materials, which will reduce both

shipping and labor costs. Exterior walls will be glass-fibre-reinforced plastic bonded to urethane foam insulation, prefabricated in 14-by-6-foot panels, which can be lifted and installed by two men.

Windows in the two-storey building will be of the sealed aircraft-type, with three layers of glass for thermal insulation.

Panels and insulation have been tested at laboratories of the federal Department of Public Works in Ottawa by simulated winds of up to 100 miles an hour — a velocity sometimes reached at Frobisher Bay — and by simulated driving rain to check jointing efficiency.

The design of the school and the materials used are intended not only to withstand the long periods of sub-zero weather and hurricane-velocity winds, but also to harmonize with the rocky, barren, almost lunar landscape where the buildings will be located, less than 200 miles south of the Arctic Circle.

TELEPHONE PAGING SERVICE

A new electronic telephone-paging system built round a computer has been developed and put into service by Bell Canada. The paging service will enable people in the Ontario cities of London and Windsor, where the system was inaugurated simultaneously on September 2, to contact persons within the five-mile radius of the local transmitter who are carrying small portable receivers. When the receiver's number is dialled a signal is activated within the unit. The person being paged telephones a predetermined number — home or office, for example — to receive the message.

The system has been described by J.D. Fahey, Bell's director of engineering design, as "a project of considerable significance — a Canadian development that has made us leaders in this developing area of telecommunications." "We have patents on this system in 17 countries," Mr. Fahey said, "and telecommunications experts from the United States and other countries have come to study it."

Mr. Fahey says that the paging service itself does not differ from Bellboy service⁽¹⁾ in Toronto, Montreal and other large centers, but that the technology is "quite revolutionary", and is significant because of its potential for future communications.

Possible future developments could include a one-way voice service, where a brief message is received on the portable unit, and a "roaming" service, where a customer could be contacted away from his home city.

Mr. Fahey said that the system, which uses a computer and existing communications switching equipment, was the first to make automatic telephone-paging economically practical outside large metropolitan centres.

⁽¹⁾ See "National Capital Calling" *Canadian Weekly Bulletin*, Vol. 23, No. 4, dated January 24, 1968, P. 5.