



CANADA

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## CONTENTS

World Without Distance .....	1
PM Salutes U Thant Decision .....	3
Canada's Dependence on Exports .....	3
New Patrol Vessel .....	3

Apples Galore .....	4
Canada-Argentina Motorcade .....	4
Forest Fires .....	4
Barbados Independence .....	5

## WORLD WITHOUT DISTANCE

*The following partial text is from a recent address by Mr. John N. Turner, Minister Without Portfolio, to the seventeenth annual conference of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers in Montreal:*

...This is an appropriate time for us to look to the future for in Canada we are about to celebrate the centennial of the birth of this country. One hundred years, measured against the backdrop of history, does not seem a long time. But it will seem even smaller and less relevant in the world of tomorrow. In Canada, during the next 35 years, we shall virtually rebuild and transform our country. In this span of time, more houses, schools, plants, parks, apartments and office buildings will be built in Canada than in all the 432 years since Jacques Cartier first touched our shores.

Man has reached the greatest heights and depths of the earth and is preparing for journeys far beyond the sky. Yet only 100 years ago the poles were utterly unknown. Much of Africa was still as mysterious as in the time of King Solomon. No human being had descended more than 100 feet into the sea or risen more than a mile into the air. We have gone so far in so short a time. We shall go much farther and much faster if man outlives his adolescence and does not destroy himself with his own toys. We shall have moved within our lifetime farther down the road of history than did all our ancestors since the recorded history of man.

### ELECTRONICS IN THE VANGUARD

You, men of electronics in an electronic age, are in the vanguard, rolling back the boundaries and fron-

tiers of knowledge. You will play a key role in determining the nature of our environment and the conditions of our life for the next century. Dramatic progress has given us a virtually instantaneous global system in communications and transportation. Indeed, we soon must decide or choose between competing superlatives in communication and transportation. If travel becomes instantaneous, will anybody bother to communicate? Or, if communication becomes so real and vital in terms of bringing other parts of the world to our doorstep, will anybody bother to travel? Communications will improve until all our senses - and not merely our vision and hearing - can be projected anywhere on the face of the earth. I hope it will not happen as...E.M. Forster predicted in his short story *The Machine Stops*, that our remote descendants will live in single cells, scarcely ever leaving them, because they are able to establish instant television contact with anyone else on the earth wherever he might be.

All around us massive strides are being made in communications. INTELSAT, the international telecommunications satellite consortium, has opened a fresh approach to the management and development of a world-wide communications system. Many of you are familiar with COMSAT, the communications satellite corporation, which is controlled jointly by the U.S. common carriers, the telephone and telegraph companies and the American public. Its role is to develop the U.S. overseas service and also to act as a contractor for INTELSAT for the construction and launching of satellites. This is a fresh, new institutional approach to a fresh series of problems.