

## HUGE WHEAT SALE TO U.S.S.R.

A contract for the sale of up to 185 million bushels of wheat, valued at \$330 million, to the Soviet Union was announced recently by Mr. Otto Lang, the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board.

A firm contract for 130 million bushels of wheat has been signed and the buyer has an option to purchase an additional 55 million bushels of wheat and flour. Delivery of wheat under the contract, which will begin in July, will continue through 1973.

Shipments will be made from both Pacific and Atlantic ports, and the Soviet Union also has the option of shipping part of the wheat through Churchill during the 1972 navigation season.

Numbers 1 and 2 Canada Western Red Spring wheat will be delivered during 1972; the grades to be shipped in 1973 will be established later. As in previous contracts, the Soviet Union will pay cash at the time of shipment.

This latest sale is in addition to the 130-million bushel contract which will be completed by next June.

## AIRCRAFT SWAPPING PROJECT

"Peace Wings" - a project of which the Canadian Armed Forces acquired 66 improved versions of the *Voodoo* interceptor - has been brought to a successful conclusion.

At a ceremony held in Greenville, South Carolina, last month, Brigadier-General D.W. Goss, director-general of aerospace systems, accepted the final aircraft for the Canadian Armed Forces from Brigadier-General D.F. Blake, a representative of the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force. The ceremony marked the end of a program that involved the Canadian and U.S. Governments, the Canadian Armed Forces and the United States Air Force, as well as two major contractors and many smaller ones on both sides of the border.

"Peace Wings" began in July 1970, when a CF-101 landed at Winnipeg and taxied over to Bristol Aerospace Limited. In the next year-and-a-half, Canadian CF-101 *Voodoos* flew in from Canadian Forces Bases Chatham, Bagotville and Comox, where they were met by incoming U.S. F-101s. At the Bristol plant, certain equipment was modified and interchanged.

The former Canadian CF-101 aircraft were then flown back to the U.S., where some will serve with the National Guard. The previously American-owned F-101s, with Canadian engines and other equipment installed, were flown to the Ling-Temco-Vought Electro Systems (LTVE) facility in Greenville, South Carolina, for modifications to the auto pilot and

fire-control system before departing for operational service in Canada.

As with any program of such complexity, problems developed. On some occasions both the American LTVE and the Canadian Bristol company worked overtime in the effort to keep the project on schedule. On another occasion, an engine problem in Canada caused several aircraft to be grounded and threatened to upset the tight scheduling. The United States Air Force responded quickly at that critical period by lending ten engines to Canada so that the project could continue satisfactorily.

## BOTSWANA POWER LOAN

Canada will provide an additional loan of \$10 million to the Government of Botswana for the construction of a power-station to serve the Shashe Mining Complex Project. This Southern African country has already received a \$20-million development loan, one of the largest ever made in Africa by the Canadian International Development Agency, to finance the construction and the supply of electric generators, turbines, boilers and transmission lines for the Selibe-Pikwe electric-power project in the northeast area of Botswana. The additional \$10 million will cover increased costs in equipment and construction.

The Canadian contribution will help Botswana, where nickel and copper were discovered in 1967, provide the electricity necessary for the development of its mining industry. The sparsely-settled country has a population of some 600,000, only 28,000 of whom have jobs. The people of Botswana have a *per capita* income of only \$102. Canada, other donor countries and the World Bank, agreed to finance the infrastructure costs of the massive Shashe Mining Complex project in order to boost the country's lagging economy.

It is expected that the Selibe-Pikwe project will help to reduce Botswana's heavy dependence on external budgetary support as well as significantly increase employment and stimulate further economic growth in the country.

## BIRDS WITH BIG HEADS

Grosbeaks in Sutton, Quebec, are having a high old time with painful after-effects after feeding on rowan berries which have intoxicated them.

The red-breasted birds, after performing startling aerobatics, are happily sleeping off their folly feet upwards on the ground. Some, however, that crashed into plate-glass windows, will no doubt be suffering more than just a hangover headache.