

EUROPEAN TRADE TALKS

Canadian trade commissioners from the countries of the European Economic Community met in Brussels on June 28 and 29 with senior officials of the Department of Trade and Commerce and with representatives of the Canadian mission to the EEC.

The meeting was held on the eve of full implementation of the EEC common external tariff and the elimination of remaining tariffs on trade as between the member countries. Mr. Paul Tremblay, Canadian Ambassador to Belgium and to the European Community, and Mr. J.H. Warren, Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, were co-chairmen of the conference. Later this month the Trade and Commerce Department will publish details of the access to the Common Market for Canadian goods which will result from the unified Common Market tariff as reduced by the Kennedy Round cuts. Because of these new developments within the community, the Trade and Commerce officials met to review trade prospects in Europe and to consider how best to assist Canadian exporters to expand sales to the European Community.

The European Common Market is second only to the United States in total production. It is the world's largest market for imports and is now Canada's third best export market. In 1967, Canadian exports to the EEC were \$677 million, an increase over the 1966 figure of 6.4 per cent.

The meeting in Brussels, which was part of the Trade Department's continuing programme of identifying export possibilities and establishing priorities, concluded that the EEC represented an outlet for substantially increased and diversified Canadian exports. It also concluded that Trade Department programmes oriented toward individual member countries of the EEC should be supplemented by approaches that are community-wide in their scope. A number of proposals were considered and will be developed further.

NRC ALTIMETER PROVED

Tests conducted recently in the tropical forests of Central America indicated that a radar altimeter that was developed in Canada could be of great value to the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America in surveying their forest resources.

The forestry radar altimeter was developed by the Radio and Electrical Engineering Division of the National Research Council at the request of the Forest Management Institute of the Department of Forestry and Rural Development. It has been used successfully in Canada for forest surveying by means of low-level aerial photographs, taken at between 500 and 2,000 feet. Precise readings of altitudes above ground-level are a prerequisite for extracting quantitative information about a forest area from aerial photographs. For convenience, and to ensure perfect synchronization, the radar altimeter reading appears in the corner of each photo.

The altimeter, which also appears promising for use in magnetometer surveys and low-altitude topo-

graphic mapping, is now being manufactured by Leigh Instruments Ltd., of Carleton Place, Ontario. The outstanding feature of this instrument is its ability to measure actual flying height above the ground without being affected, like normal radar altimeters, by intervening vegetation, as well as being easy to install in light planes or helicopters.

TESTS IN GUATEMALA

At the invitation of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, which became interested in the potential value of the Canadian radar altimeter and low-level aerial photographic technique for surveying the forest resources of developing countries, a Canadian team went to Guatemala in March to test the altimeter under tropical forest conditions.

Tests were conducted over a period of six days, from an FAO camp near the village of Sayaxché in northern Guatemala, an area of typically lush tropical rain forest.

The altimeter proved largely successful in penetrating the main tree canopy of the tropical forest, but some difficulties were encountered in penetrating the last 20 feet of short trees, palms, vines and shrubs, which are characteristic of such forests. The radar experts believe, however, that further modifications and adjustments to the altimeter can overcome most of these difficulties.

CANADA AT EXPO 70

President Taizo Ishizaka of Expo 70, marked Canada's hundred and first birthday on July 1 by turning the first sod on the site of the Canadian pavilion at Osaka.

The ceremonies, some 7,000 miles from the centennial flame on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, were attended by Mr. H.O. Moran, Canada's Ambassador to Japan, as well as leaders of Japanese industry and government.

Before the official sod-turning ceremonies got under way, a Shinto priest performed an ancient Japanese ritual in which he offered prayers to the spirit of the land. These ceremonies are considered essential by the Japanese workmen who will erect the Canadian pavilion at a cost of some \$2 million.

LES FEUX-FOLLETS IN EUROPE

The Department of External Affairs announced recently that les Feux-Follets, a Montreal dance company, would tour France, Belgium, Switzerland and Luxembourg in the autumn as part of the Canadian programme of cultural exchange with French-speaking countries. The company will receive a grant from the Canadian Government to help towards the cost of the tour during which they will give a total of 29 performances in Paris, Tours, Lyon, Bordeaux, Marseille, Montpellier, Grenoble, Nice, Brussels, Liège, Antwerp, Luxembourg and Geneva.

The programme, which was created mainly for this tour, will allow the European public to see the dances of several regions of Canada.