

these proposals, the Government of Canada intends to expand its consultation and co-operation with interested provinces, notably Quebec. The Canadian Government is convinced that it is in this spirit that effective co-operation can be undertaken, in which it has an essential role to play. It is also the only way which will guarantee, in a field where technology progresses at such a rapid pace, truly efficient utilization of the financial resources of the governments concerned towards their common objectives, without duplication of effort or expenditure.

### GOOD WISHES TO PRESIDENT NIXON

*Prime Minister Trudeau sent the following message to President Nixon upon his inauguration on January 20:*

As you assume the Presidency of your country, I extend to you and Mrs. Nixon the best wishes of the Canadian Government and your Canadian friends and neighbours. I look forward to working with you for the benefit of both our countries and for peace and justice in the world.

### FAREWELL TO MR. JOHNSON

*The Prime Minister also sent a message of appreciation and farewell to President Johnson prior to his leaving office:*

As you relinquish the heavy responsibilities of the Presidency, I want to express to you, on behalf of the Canadian Government, our deep appreciation for the friendship and understanding for our country which you have shown during your service as President.

We remember in particular your visits to both our West and East coasts as well as to Ottawa and Montreal.

Canadians join in wishing you and Mrs. Johnson much happiness and satisfaction in the new endeavours on which you are now embarking.

### WELFARE COUNCIL REPORT

An adequate guaranteed annual income is regarded by the Canadian Welfare Council as the social right of all Canadians: it should be instituted "as rapidly as possible", according to the Council's statement, *Social Policies for Canada*, released on January 29 to federal and provincial ministers, Members of Parliament and provincial legislatures, and appropriate officials at all levels of government. The statement is also being distributed to individuals and social agencies in every region of Canada.

The Council's views, with 38 recommendations, are contained in a 78-page printed document prepared by a special project committee under the chairmanship of a former president, B.M. Alexandor of Ottawa. The project received substantial financial support from the Department of National Health and Welfare.

Among the recommendations of the special two-year study were:

Old age security payments should be related to the rising standard of living.

There should be substantial increases in family and youth allowances.

Insurance for interruption of income owing to sickness or childbirth should be mandatory.

The provinces should develop a "basic network" of social welfare services.

Canada should create a disaster-services unit which could respond to natural and man-made disasters abroad.

### HUMAN RIGHTS FOR JUST SOCIETY

The entire statement reflects the growing acceptance of the view that human rights are basic to a just society. Its contention is that people are entitled to certain benefits and conditions of living as a matter of right, rather than as an uncertain privilege bestowed by others.

The document contains sections on the practical implementation of the philosophy of social rights. It proposes legislative and administrative procedures to safeguard the principle of social rights. As such rights relate to social security (specifically income security), the guaranteed income is seen as the first line of defence against poverty, though the statement also deals with other current forms of income maintenance, some of which (e.g. flat-rate family allowances and wage-related social insurance) should be changed or enlarged.

### IRAN'S CROWN JEWELS STUDIED

The Crown jewels of Iran – the world's most valuable collection of gems – were the subject of an illustrated lecture at the National Museum of Natural Sciences recently, when Dr. Victor B. Meen, chief mineralogist at the Royal Ontario Museum, a member of the ROM team invited to study the collection, showed slides of many of its pieces. There were pictures of the world's largest ruby-red spinel, five emeralds weighing over 300 carats each, seven of the 14 diamonds in the world that weigh over 100 carats, ropes of magnificent oriental pearls and gem-encrusted paraphernalia of the Royal Court.

Dr. Meen and Dr. A.D. Tushingham, chief archaeologist of the ROM, headed a seven-member team that went to Iran in 1966 to carry out the first scientific study of the collection and to catalogue it.

This task was entrusted to the Royal Ontario Museum by custodians of the collection, the Central Bank of Iran. The project was sponsored by the Birks Family Foundation and the team included two documentation assistants, a photographer and a research assistant in gemmology. As well, the services of E.B. Tiffany, chief gemmologist for Henry Birks and Sons, were made available for the last month of the three-month study.