

Queen Elizabeth to open Games

Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by Prince Andrew and Prince Edward, will be in Canada from July 26 for the XI Commonwealth Games, which the Queen will open in Edmonton on August 3.

The royal party, which will arrive in St. John's, Newfoundland, will also visit other communities in the province before leaving for Saskatchewan and Alberta prior to the opening of the Games. They will spend from August 4 to 6 attending the competitions.

The evening before her departure for the United Kingdom with Prince Edward, Queen Elizabeth will address the nation on August 5, at a dinner given by the Prime Minister in Edmonton.

The Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Andrew will pay a private visit to British Columbia, August 7 and 8, on the occasion of the Captain Cook Bicentennial (see *Canada Weekly* dated March 15, 1978 P. 4). They will return to attend Games competitions until August 12, when the Duke will officiate at the closing of the Games. They leave Canada for Britain on August 13.

U.S. credit facility

Finance Minister Jean Chrétien signed an agreement on behalf of Canada in New York on June 23 with a group of international banks for a \$3-billion (U.S.) revolving credit facility.

The credit facility is to be available for eight years. During the first four years, the amount available to Canada will be \$3 billion (U.S.). During the succeeding years, the amount will be reduced in steps to \$1 billion for the eighth year. Canada will have the option to cancel without penalty all or any portion of the facility unused at the time of cancellation.

Interest rates on borrowings will be the average of the prime lending rates of a representative group of U.S. banks, with an additional one-quarter of 1 per cent a year being payable during the final four years of the agreement.

Canada will pay a commitment fee of one-quarter of 1 per cent a year on the unused portion of the facility. If and when a borrowing is made, a further fee of one-quarter of 1 per cent a year will be paid on the amount borrowed prorated

on the fraction of a year in which that amount had remained unused prior to the date of the borrowing. Accordingly, this added fee would not apply to an amount borrowed at the start of an anniversary year of the agreement.

The new credit facility complements several other external financing arrangements which have been made by Canada since last October. These include a \$2.5-billion (U.S.) revolving standby credit facility with the Canadian chartered banks, a \$750-million (U.S.) bond issue offered publicly on the U.S. market and a 1.5-billion (Deutsche Mark) borrowing in Germany.

Canadian expelled from Iraq

The Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs has declared W.A. McKenzie, First Secretary and Chargé d'Affaires a.i. at the Canadian Embassy in Baghdad, *persona non grata*. While no explanation or justification was given for this action, the Department of External Affairs presumes it is in retaliation for Canada's expulsion of Iraqi Second Secretary Abdul Latif M. Al-Niaimi. Mr. Al-Niaimi left on June 20.

Mr. Al-Niaimi's departure was requested because he had been engaged in questionable intelligence activities similar to those carried on by former Minister Plenipotentiary at the Iraqi Embassy, Abu Al-Khail, whose departure from Canada was requested last August. Mr. Al-Niaimi is known to have paid money for reports on individuals in the Canadian Kurdish community, and his agents have been involved in efforts to disrupt Kurdish organizations. In requesting his departure, the Canadian Government reiterated its position that the carrying on of such intelligence activities, whether or not directed against the Canadian Government, was incompatible with the diplomatic status of personnel serving with an embassy in Ottawa.

The Canadian Government has conveyed to the Government of Iraq through the Iraqi Ambassador in Ottawa, a strong protest at its arbitrary and unjustified action in expelling the Canadian Chargé d'Affaires. In a diplomatic note, given to the Ambassador on July 7, the Department of External Affairs rejected in principle any suggestion that retaliation in any form against Canadian personnel in Baghdad was justified or acceptable. Pointing out that Mr. Al-Niaimi's de-

parture had been requested because he had been engaged in intelligence activities that the Canadian Government could not tolerate, the note stated that neither Mr. McKenzie nor any other member of the Canadian Embassy staff in Baghdad had engaged in any kind of improper activities and that no such allegations had been made. There was, therefore, no basis whatsoever for the action taken by the Iraqi authorities.

Mr. McKenzie joined the Trade Commissioner Service of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in 1965 and has served in Melbourne, Seattle and Cairo.

Criminal Code revisions

The revised Prisons and Reformatories Act and the new earned remission system became law July 1 after consultations between the Federal Government and the governments of the provinces. Both measures are part of the Criminal Code Amendment Law 1977, adopted by Parliament last summer.

Under the new earned remission system, inmates will no longer be automatically credited with one-quarter of their sentence, but will instead be required to earn all remission. They will earn 15 days for every month served during which they apply themselves industriously.

The fact that all remission must be earned and is subject to forfeiture for misconduct will place the onus on the inmate to earn an early release date. Forfeited remission cannot be restored.

Inmates now incarcerated and already credited with the present one-quarter statutory remission will retain that credit, subject to the provisions of forfeiture that apply under the statutory remission system. These inmates will also retain whatever earned remission they had to their credit on July 1. The maximum credit toward the time to be released from custody cannot exceed one-third of the sentence being served.

The revision of the Prisons and Reformatories Act provides for a system in provincial institutions identical to the federal earned remission system.

Other sections of the revised Prisons and Reformatories Act were also proclaimed July 1, except for the repeal of certain sections of the present Act which are applicable only to Ontario and British Columbia.