

FOREIGN DIPLOMATS TO SEE THE NORTH

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, has announced that the Federal Government will organize two tours of the Canadian Arctic this autumn for the heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Canada.

The first trip, to the Western Arctic, from September 23 to 29, will include visits to Churchill, Whitehorse, Dawson, Miles Canyon, Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Yellowknife, Norman Wells, Hay River and Fort Smith.

The second tour is scheduled for the Eastern Arctic from October 5 to 11. It will include visits to Frobisher Bay, Cape Dorset, Resolute Bay, Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Yellowknife, Norman Wells, Hay River, Fort Smith and Churchill.

This is the first time the Government has organized a tour for foreign and Commonwealth heads of mission in Canada to see developments in the North. Twenty-five will be invited to take part on each trip. Other tours to the Arctic will be arranged, it is hoped, for those heads of mission who cannot be accommodated this autumn.

CYPRUS TROOP SWITCH

The 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel T.M. Marsaw, of London, Ontario, will replace the 1st Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment in Cyprus this October. The troop rotation follows a recent announcement that the United Nations mandate for UN forces in Cyprus had been extended to December 15.

A total of 490 soldiers from Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt, British Columbia, will fly to Cyprus by Yukon aircraft, the first flight leaving Victoria on October 4.

Returning to CFB London, will be 485 soldiers, including support troops of the Royal Canadian Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel D.G. Loomis of Ottawa. The Canadian contingent took over peacekeeping operations in and around the capital city of Nicosia, last March. Prior to this re-deployment they were responsible for the Kyrenia district, a 550 square mile area between Nicosia and the north-west coast of Cyprus.

Canadian troops have been in Cyprus since the UN contingent first went to the island in 1964; they have been rotated twice yearly since that time.

RISE IN APARTMENT VACANCY RATES

Results of the June apartment vacancy survey conducted by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation show an increase in vacancy rates in all metropolitan areas over those obtained in a similar survey made a year ago. Despite the increases, tight rental markets continued in ten metropolitan areas.

Conducted on a sample basis, the survey is concerned with apartment structures containing six units or more, completed by December 31, 1969. Apartment buildings containing less than six units are excluded, as are single-detached, duplex and row dwellings.

The total vacancy rate, based on a weighted average of the 19 centres surveyed, was 4.74 per cent. This compares with a rate of 3.12 per cent for 17 metropolitan areas surveyed in June 1969 and 3.80 per cent for 11 centres covered in 1968.

Windsor and Sudbury showed the lowest level of apartment vacancies at 0.9 per cent and 0.3 per cent respectively. Saskatoon had the highest vacancy rate at 20.3 per cent, more than double the level in 1969.

Montreal showed increases in vacancy rates for the third consecutive year, while Toronto, with the highest level of apartment completions anywhere in Canada in 1969, showed virtually no change in apartment vacancies.

Vacancy Rates in Apartment Structures
Six Units and Over (Per Cent)

Metropolitan Area	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Calgary	16.3	14.3	7.8	7.2	1.8	1.1	1.7	5.7
Edmonton	8.8	13.0	6.5	2.3	2.3	2.3	3.7	5.7
Halifax	4.0	3.4	3.9	3.4	2.5	0.4	0.4	2.3
Hamilton	**	**	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.9	1.3	2.8
Kitchener	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	5.3
London	**	**	**	**	**	**	3.9	6.9
Montreal	6.9	6.6	5.9	4.4	1.2	4.7	7.2	7.9
Ottawa-Hull	7.7	8.2	8.8	7.1	1.9	1.3	1.6	2.1
Quebec	**	6.6	6.4	5.1	2.2	2.2	2.8	3.7
Regina	**	**	**	**	**	**	3.8	10.7
Saint John	**	**	**	**	**	**	0.4	1.5
St. John's	**	**	**	**	**	**	18.9	20.7
Saskatoon	**	**	**	**	**	**	10.1	20.3
Sudbury	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	0.3
Toronto	4.0	2.6	1.5	0.9	1.1	1.4	2.4	2.5
Vancouver	4.0	4.4	4.0	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.1	2.5
Victoria	**	**	**	**	**	**	3.2	5.2
Windsor	**	**	**	**	1.0	1.5	0.6	0.9
Winnipeg	3.8	5.6	4.9	4.1	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.5

** Not surveyed

CANADA-ISRAEL DRAFT AIR PACT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, announced recently that Canadian and Israeli delegations met in Jerusalem the week of August 17 to continue discussions begun in Ottawa last September towards the conclusion of a bilateral air transport agreement to provide for the establishment of air services between Canada and Israel.

The Canadian delegation was headed by Mr. G. Morriset, chairman, International Transport Policy Committee, Canadian Transport Commission; the Israeli delegation by Mr. N. Ben-Yehuda, director, Civil Aviation Department, Ministry of Transport.

At the conclusion of the discussions the two heads of delegation initialled a draft agreement which will be submitted for the approval of their respective governments.