

GATT CONFERENCE

Mr. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce, has announced the Canadian Government's decision to participate in the tariff conference which is to be convened in September 1960 under the auspices of the GATT.

Mr. Churchill said that this conference should provide new opportunities for improving the terms of access for Canadian exports to the United States and to other markets throughout the world. This will be of particular importance in the light of the substantial progress already made by many countries in relaxing discriminatory import restrictions and the prospects that now exist for further progress. The conference will also provide the first opportunity for detailed examination and negotiation of the proposed common tariff of the European Economic Community.

The forthcoming tariff conference was proposed last year by the United States Government as part of an international programme undertaken by GATT countries to facilitate the continued expansion of world trade. The member countries of the European Economic Community will be entering these negotiations on the basis of their proposed common external tariff. This new common tariff will, upon completion in the next few months, be submitted for examination by the other GATT countries prior to the negotiations. It is envisaged that other countries, including certain new members of GATT, will also participate in this tariff conference. Negotiations will be carried on, as in the past, between pairs or groups of countries on a product-by-product basis and the resulting concessions will be extended automatically to all GATT countries.

Government Departments in Ottawa are now making preparations for these negotiations. In order to aid in these preparations, Canadian business firms and organizations interested in trade with the various member countries of the GATT are, as on previous occasions, invited to submit representations to the International Trade Relations Branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa.

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GIFT TO JAPAN

Prime Minister Diefenbaker has announced that the Government of Canada had authorized a second grant of \$10,000 to the Japanese Red Cross Society, to provide emergency relief assistance to the victims of typhoon Vera which struck Japan on September 26. An earlier grant of \$10,000 had been approved by the Government on September 28.

Both these grants came from the International Relief Fund which was established by Parliament for the purpose of providing assistance to disaster victims in other coun-

tries. Contributions to the Fund, which was known originally as the European Flood Relief Fund, came from the Federal Government, Provincial Governments and private Canadian citizens. The Fund is administered by the Canadian Red Cross Society which gives its services and facilities free of charge as its contribution to the Fund.

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POPULATION INCREASES

Canada's population increased 266,000 in the first eight months of this year to an estimated 17,550,000 at September 1 from 17,284,000 at the beginning of the year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' quarterly estimate. This year's January-August increase was almost identical to that of a year earlier (267,000), but considerably smaller than 1957's record eight-month increase of 401,000 when immigration contributed heavily to the gain.

Ontario continued to have the largest numerical growth in population with an increase in the first eight months of this year of 103,000 to 5,990,000, from 5,887,000 at January 1. Quebec was next with an increase of 77,000 to 5,032,000 from 4,955,000; Alberta third with a rise of 25,000 to 1,253,000 from 1,228,000, and British Columbia fourth with a gain of 18,000 to 1,581,000 from 1,563,000.

The estimated population of Saskatchewan increased to 906,000 from 896,000 at the beginning of this year; Manitoba to 888,000 from 878,000; Nova Scotia to 718,000 from 715,000; New Brunswick to 593,000 from 584,000; Newfoundland to 452,000 from 443,000; and Prince Edward Island to 103,000 from 101,000.

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ARMY OFFICERS MEETING

A meeting of senior United Kingdom and Canadian Army officers will be held in Ottawa on October 29 and 30 to discuss the Canadian "Bobcat" and similar British developments. Army Headquarters has announced.

The purpose of the meeting is to try to find a basis of agreement on common requirements for tracked amphibious vehicles, with a view to reaching some form of standardization. The Bobcat is being developed for possible use by the Canadian Army.

Representing the British Army will be Maj.-Gen. D.G. Moore, Director of Weapons and Development; Maj.-Gen. D.A. Kendrew, Director of Infantry, and Maj.-Gen. H.M. Liardet, of the Ministry of Supply. Canadian representatives will include Maj.-Gen. J.V. Allard, Vice Chief of the General Staff; Brig. H.W. Love, Deputy Quartermaster General (Design and Development), and Col. N.G. Wilson-Smith, Director of Combat Development.