

additional powers to undertake new programs in the broad domain of culture.

"Whether or not they wish to avail themselves of these powers immediately, the provinces should take the primary role in supporting local and regional cultural and artistic development, particularly by encouraging wide public participation in cultural activities and by the establishment, where they do not as yet exist, of provincial arts councils to assist in this process.

"We stress this matter of participation for a good reason. Canadians in recent years have become more active in cultural pursuits, and less willing to be satisfied with a passive or spectator role. We feel that the provinces should build on this trend by working closely with their individual citizens, ethno-cultural groups, municipalities and community groups to promote the ideal of direct public participation in regional and provincial cultural development.

"Since most provincial programs are by their nature closely entwined with

cultural development in its widest sense we urge the provincial governments to be conscious of the impact these 'non-cultural' programs may have on the cultural development of their society.

"They should also recognize the importance of education, not only for their provincial societies, but for the development of young citizens of the federation as a whole. Accordingly, the provinces should emphasize that education has a Canada-wide dimension by giving greater prominence to Canadian studies, and they should, through a strengthened council of ministers of education, develop ways and means by which this dimension may be represented in our school systems.

"Thus the provinces, and in particular Quebec, have an essential responsibility for culture in its most basic sense. The central government, while not ignoring its appropriate role, must be prepared to recognize this fact and should orient its own future activity to cultural endeavours and institutions which affect the federation as a whole."

## Fresh opportunities for women in Canadian armed forces

Defence Minister Barney Danson recently announced plans to open three new areas to women in the armed forces as a five-year experiment:

- service in "near-combat roles at sea, on land and in the air" such as taking part in search and rescue work and flying transport aircraft;
- service in isolated posts where privacy can be provided, despite fears about locking up "men and women together in one building for long winter months";
- enrolment in military college.

Women who meet physical and training requirements will also be able to join the Governor-General's Foot Guards or Canadian Grenadier Guards on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

Mr. Danson said the forces would need up to five years for tests, research and for educating servicemen.

"We are left stranded in ambiguity between our accountability to the law and our primary responsibility for the security of the nation," Mr. Danson confessed to members of the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba and the YWCA in Winnipeg.

"The role of the military is security and it cannot be compromised," he said. "We cannot lower our standards to accommodate women. That's not acceptable to our men and I know it's not acceptable to our women."

New opportunities for women could help the forces meet an expected manpower shortage in the 1980s. "And as the jobless rate falls the armed forces will have difficulty attracting all the volunteers required."

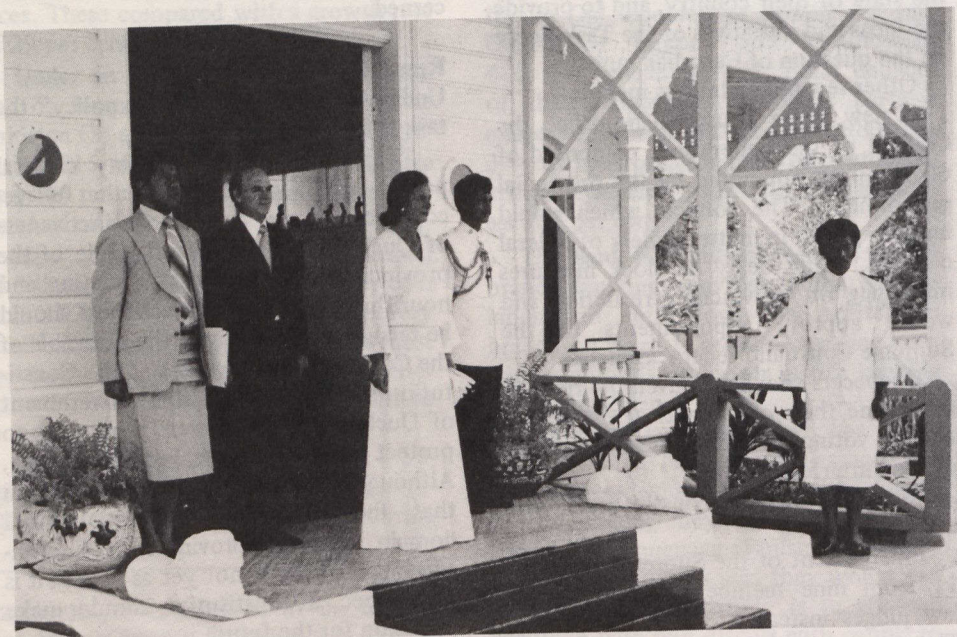
There are already 4,000 women in the forces, 5.9 per cent of the 80,000 total, "the largest percentage of any country except the United States and Israel".

"I believe that our servicewomen have earned a fuller role in the forces; I don't believe anatomy is destiny," said the minister.

The changes have been discussed with the Human Rights Commission and the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. From the women's organization, "the feedback has been generally positive; they seem to be pleased".

(In 1970, the Royal Commission on the Status of Women recommended that the military treat women the same as men.)

## Colourful ceremony as Canadian envoy presents credentials in Tonga



Canadian High Commissioner to New Zealand, Tonga, Fiji, Western Samoa and the Cook Islands, Irene E. Johnson, listens as the Royal Band of Tonga plays Canada's national anthem outside the entrance to the Royal Palace at Nuku'Alofa, Tonga. The occasion was Mrs. Johnson's recent visit to the island capital to present her credentials to King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV. She also reviewed a 50-man guard of honour.

Canada established diplomatic relations with the Kingdom of Tonga seven years ago. (Left to right), Siosaia Maulopeko Tofa Tuita, Assistant Secretary, Prime Minister's Office and son-in-law to the King; Howard Campbell, Canadian Commercial Counsellor, Wellington; Mrs. Johnson; and Lieutenant Maafa, aide-de-camp to the King.