

ships of the other signatory countries be fitted with very high frequency (VHF) radio telephone equipment of a specified standard, for use in those waters on which marine traffic control is in effect.

Fire protection to be incorporated in the construction of new vessels, will be another major topic of discussion at the meetings.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**EXPORT TARGET RAISED**

In a recent address to the annual meeting of the Canadian Export Association, Trade Minister Robert Winters set a new target of \$12.3 billion for Canada's exports in 1968. He also predicted that the export target of \$11.25 billion for centennial year would be reached or passed.

"It was here, last year, that I set the 1967 centennial export target of \$11.25 billion," Mr. Winters reminded the meeting. "This ambitious target gave us something to set our sights for. How well have we succeeded?"

"The answer is, we are on course and closing in on target. Canada's exports in the first eight months of 1967 are up by \$865 million, or 13 per cent, from the same period a year ago," Mr. Winters reported. "Barring serious disruption of production of goods for export, we shall reach and exceed our \$11.25 billion objective," he declared.

Mr. Winters' forecast for 1968 included increased activity in major markets. He said that some Canadian exports (such as resource products, non-ferrous metals, energy materials, forest products and uranium) should record substantial gains, while other sectors (notably automotive products, wheat, and the tourist industry) might encounter a decline from the record foreign-exchange earnings of recent years.

"All in all," Mr. Winters announced, "it seems reasonable to set as a target for 1968 a further increase in the value of our export sales of just over \$1 billion, for a total target of \$12.3 billion." This, he said would entail sales averaging over \$1 billion a month, "an undreamed of amount only a few years ago".

**KENNEDY ROUND BENEFITS**

Mr. Winters described the Kennedy Round, which will go into force in 1968, as the biggest trade deal in Canada's history, with an enormous potential for Canada's future trade and prosperity. "True, access to our own market has been widened, meaning greater competition, but our tariff protection will in general still be significantly higher than that of the United States and the European countries with which we must compete," Mr. Winters said. Some adjustments by Canadian producers will be required and, in Mr. Winters' opinion, adjustment assistance, which is being considered, should be positively oriented.

"There must be exceptions to every rule," the Minister said, "but such a programme should not be to help continue making those things which Canada is not well suited to produce and which can be obtained more economically from our trading partners. Rather, it should assist companies to switch into lines where we are specialized or can specialize and be competitive here and elsewhere."

Beyond the Kennedy Round, Mr. Winters sketched the trade liberalization initiatives in which Canada was prepared to participate, which include: the progressive removal of non-tariff barriers to trade; the expansion of international commodity agreement; improved access for the exports of developing countries; ways and means of facilitating adjustments to changing trade patterns; the further lowering of tariffs; the amelioration of the effects of agricultural protectionism; and the establishment of an improved framework for multilateral trading relations between market and state-trade economies.

**NEW PROGRAMMES**

Mr. Winters also announced new programmes to assist Canadian exporters in their drive for foreign markets:

- (1) the setting of the 1968 export target;
- (2) the establishment of export councils by specialized trade and industry associations;
- (3) the extension of export credit insurance coverage to exports to the United States, as a normal rule, for the first time;
- (4) an overall review of export credits insurance services and capacities;
- (5) the opening of new trade commissioner posts in the United States and Eastern Europe;
- (6) the improvement of existing trade promotion services;
- (7) a design export group aimed at focusing attention on improved industrial design in Canadian exports; and
- (8) the reorganization of the Department further to streamline and improve the efficiency of its operations.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ICEBREAKER IN RESCUE ROLE**

The Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker *John A. Macdonald*, which made history recently as the first large ship to navigate the Northwest Passage by way of Victoria Strait, is returning to her base at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, via the Panama Canal, after having taken part in the release of an icebound U.S. Coast Guard vessel in the Western Arctic. The ship was ordered to the rescue of the United States Coast Guard icebreaker *Northwind*, which had been disabled and was trapped in the Polar ice-pack nearly 500 miles north of Point Barrow, Alaska.

Captain Paul Fournier, master of the *John A. Macdonald*, and his crew acted in support of the U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker *Staten Island*, which was sent from an Alaskan base to the aid of the *Northwind*. The *John A. Macdonald*, the larger and more powerful of the two, was allotted the task of forcing a passage through the ice, which at times was so heavy it seemed that the effort might have to be abandoned.

The Canadian vessel was engaged in this undertaking from September 25 to October 6, during which time ice conditions in the Northwest Passage worsened rapidly, resulting in the cancellation of the planned return through the Passage to the Eastern Arctic and the necessity of return home by way of Panama.