

abroad in various spheres of pure and applied science, are designed to stimulate the exchange of post-graduate students between member countries of NATO. They represent Canada's part in NATO's Science Fellowship Programme.

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CARACAS LABOUR CONFERENCE

Mr. Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced recently that Canada had sent observers to the second Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour, recently held near Caracas, Venezuela. Other commitments made it impossible for the Minister of Labour, Mr. J.R. Nicholson, to attend the conference but, in his absence, the Canadian observer group was led by Mr. George V. Haythorne, Deputy Minister of Labour. He was accompanied by Mr. John Mainwaring, Director of the International Labour Affairs Branch of the Department of Labour, and by Mr. Jean-Yves Grenon, First Secretary at the Canadian Embassy in Caracas.

The conference reviewed the progress made in the participation of departments of labour and workers in national plans for economic and social development in the countries of Latin America since the first such conference, held in Colombia in 1963. The conference also studied prospects in the labour sphere in the hemisphere.

Mr. Haythorne discussed with the Latin American ministers and officials plans for the Eighth American Regional Conference of the International Labour Organization, which will be held in Ottawa from September 12-23.

The invitation to Canada to attend the Caracas Conference was extended by the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, in accordance with a resolution of the OAS Council adopted on April 6, inviting, with the concurrence of the Government of Venezuela, several countries which are not members of the OAS, including Canada, to participate in the conference as observers.

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WOOD MISSION TO AUSTRALIA

Seven housing authorities from Australia arrived in Canada recently for a 14-day study of Canadian timber-frame methods of construction. The trade mission is sponsored by the Department of Trade and Commerce as part of a programme developed in co-operation with industry to promote sales of Canadian lumber in Australia.

The Australian visitors are being shown the advantages of Canadian building systems and being encouraged to use more lumber in their buildings.

Canada's present lumber exports to Australia are valued at almost \$10 million annually. Australia's domestic lumber supply is primarily of the hardwood variety, not suited to extensive use in the construction of houses.

ITINERARY

During their two-week visit, the mission members will see housing projects in Vancouver and Calgary. They will also tour Gold River, a new Vancouver Island town where rapid housing development, required to support new pulp mill operations, was accomplished by using traditional Canadian timber-frame construction techniques.

The mission will visit Canadian logging operations, lumber mills, plywood manufacturing, laminating and industrialized construction of houses for fast on-site assembly. The group will also tour the School of Architecture at the University of British Columbia and have talks with officials of the British Columbia Lumber Manufacturers Association, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Plywood Manufacturers Association of British Columbia. Their programme will include seminars and discussions with private builders and exporters.

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IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Canadian commodity imports in February are estimated at \$660,900,000, an increase of 20 per cent over the \$551 million recorded in February 1965. Exports for the month totalled \$694,700,000, 25 percent above the \$557,300,000 occurring a year earlier. The export balance of \$33,800,000 was considerably higher than the \$6,300,000 achieved in February 1965. These comparisons are similar to those shown by January statistics. In the first two months together, imports gained 23 per cent to \$1,364,800,000, exports 26 per cent to \$1,438,300,000 and the export balance on commodity trade rose from \$33,600,000 in 1965 to \$73,500,000 in 1966.

Both export and import totals for February appear to have been affected by the truckers' strike in Ontario. Preliminary indications are that import totals would have been higher by some \$40 million if the strike had not occurred. It is not possible to estimate the amount by which export values are affected, but this is also believed to have been substantial, though somewhat less than in the case of imports.

UNITED STATES

Imports from the United States, the source most affected by the truckers' strike, increased by only 16 per cent in February, to a total of \$473 million compared to \$407,700,000 a year ago. Exports to that market increased by 26 per cent in the month, reaching \$424,700,000, and the import balance on commodity trade with the United States was reduced to \$48,200,000 compared to \$71,100,000 in February 1965. In the first two months of the year imports from the United States totalled \$997,700,000, 22 per cent higher than the figure for the year before, and exports reached \$841,700,000, 25 percent higher than in the first two months of 1965. In spite of the sharper increase in exports, the import balance of \$156,100,000 was slightly above the \$146,300,000 recorded for the first two months of last year.