

**CANADA ROOM IN ROME:** The Department of External Affairs announced on September 28 that Canada has furnished and decorated a Committee Room in the Conference Building in Rome of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Member governments were requested in 1951 to provide furnishings and decorations for a room which would exemplify the handicrafts and skills of their respective countries.

The walls of the Committee Room have been panelled in cedar and a large map of Canada, which has been carved from eight different types of wood mounted on an aluminum background, is displayed. The Canadian coat of arms and the provincial crests are carved in wood and on each wall are also hung paintings by Canadian artists depicting the special fields of FAO, agriculture, fisheries and forestry. The paintings are by Franklin Arbuckle, Charles Comfort, Ken Lockheed, George Pepper and the map, coat of arms and crests by Arthur Price.

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**IN NATO EXERCISE:** Warships of the First Canadian Escort Squadron are currently operating in eastern Atlantic waters as part of the sea forces engaged in NATO's 11-day air, sea and land Exercise Morning Mist, Naval Headquarters announced on September 29.

The three Canadian warships involved are the destroyer escort HMCS Algonquin, and the frigates Prestonian and Toronto.

Six nations, members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, are participating in the exercise, which is taking place in the eastern Atlantic, off Norway and Denmark and in the Western Channel. The exercise was to end on October 3. The forces include about 90 ships and 100 maritime aircraft, supplied by Canada, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom.

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**VISCOUNT SWINTON'S VISIT:** The Department of External Affairs announced on September 29 that Viscount Swinton, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations of the United Kingdom, accompanied by Lady Swinton, was scheduled to arrive at Montreal on October 1, to spend three weeks in Canada.

Viscount Swinton's visit to Canada follows similar visits to Southern Rhodesia, New Zealand, Australia, India, Pakistan and Ceylon, which he has undertaken since his appointment in November 1952.

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Foreign vehicles entering Canada on traveler's vehicle permits in August declined 5.7% from a year earlier and January-August entries fell 1.4%. The month's total was 515,130 as compared with 546,185, bringing 8-month entries to 1,828,785 as compared with 1,854,896.

**EMPLOYMENT:** Industrial employment showed a further though slight improvement at the beginning of August and the Bureau's advance index rose 0.4% to 112.1 from 111.7 a month earlier. There was, however, a decline of 3% from last year's August 1 figure of 115.6. At the same time the payrolls index moved up to 155.0 from 154.0 a month earlier but was down slightly from 155.3 last year. Weekly wages and salaries rose on average to \$59.11 from \$58.98 at the beginning of July and \$57.52 a year ago.

Employment mounted from the July 1 level in all provinces except Ontario where there was a reduction of 0.9%, which was largely due to curtailment of operations in manufacturing. On the whole, the largest advances were in the western provinces, a gain of 4.5% in Alberta being most noteworthy. The improvement in Quebec was slight.

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**MANUFACTURING OFF:** Canadian industrial output as measured by the composite index of industrial production was about 3% lower in July and the first 7 months this year, the preliminary index for July standing at 239.8 as compared with 247.0, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Responsible for the July drop was a reduction of nearly 6% in manufacturing output. Mineral production, on the other hand, was close to 9% above last year's July level, and output of electricity and gas was 6% higher.

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**CHALK RIVER TOUR:** An insight into Canada's energy program was given some 35 members of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee who visited the Chalk River project of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited on October 1. Representatives from 14 nations saw the powerful NRX reactor in operation, how radio-active isotopes are prepared for use in industry, agriculture and medicine, and heard brief lectures by members of the Chalk River staff.

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Of the 77 new vessels built in Canada last year, 39 were constructed in Nova Scotia, 13 in New Brunswick, 9 in Ontario, 6 in Quebec and 5 each in Newfoundland and British Columbia. However, the Quebec ships accounted for 21,412 tons of the total registered net tonnage of 30,331, and the Ontario ships for another 7,504 tons.

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Fewer initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance benefit were filed in July than in the preceding month but there was a rise over a year earlier. Claims filed this July totalled 106,269 as compared with 114,797 in June and 75,869 in July 1953.