

MR. SHARP TO VISIT CHINA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, has announced that at the invitation of the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Chi Peng Fei, he will make an official visit to China in August. While in China Mr. Sharp will officiate at the opening of the first Canadian trade fair in Peking, where more than 200 Canadian firms, representing a good cross-section of industrial sectors from all regions of Canada will participate.

GOOSE BAY LEASE EXTENDED

The United States lease at Goose Bay, Labrador, which was due to expire on December 5, 1972, has been extended until June 30, 1973, by mutual agreement between the United States and the Canadian Governments. Canadian interests at Goose Bay Airport are administered by the Department of National Defence and the Ministry of Transport.

The base at Goose Bay is expected to remain operational, though the U.S. status at the base may change. Extension of the lease will permit renegotiation on terms acceptable to the United States and Canada.

SEAWAY REPORT

For the second consecutive year, ice conditions delayed the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway beyond the announced date of April 1. Temperatures for the month of March were lower than those experienced in March 1971, which had been considerably below normal; and a comparison of weather and temperature data for the years 1971 and 1972 indicates that 1972 weather conditions were less favourable than those of 1971, in particular in the critical period from March onwards.

As a result, the season opened in the Montreal-Lake Ontario section on April 12, when the *Olau Syd*, a 463-foot Danish tanker bound for Green Bay, Wisconsin, locked through at St. Lambert, Quebec, shortly before noon.

The Welland Canal was opened to navigation on a round-the-clock basis on March 29 when the laker *Tadoussac* transited Lock 8 bound for Sandusky, Ohio. The icebreaker *Griffon* was on hand to escort vessels in Lake Erie.

PROSPECTS FOR 1972

Traffic on the Seaway during 1972 appears to be promising. Recent sales of grain to the U.S.S.R. and the Republic of China have led to a prediction by grain experts that exports of Canadian grain on the Seaway during the last navigation season are likely to continue in 1972.

The fall-off in iron ore in both sections of the Seaway in 1971 reflected mainly lower steel production in the Great Lakes area. A "soft" demand for steel, record tonnages of steel imports in North America and blast-furnace problems experienced by Ontario steel producers contributed to lower steel production. The outlook for 1972 production is generally optimistic, with a new record predicted for the Canadian steel industry.

Prospects for an expansion in the Canadian steel industry and a low coal inventory point to an increase in coal shipments over those of last year, when shipments dropped as a result of a U.S. coal mine strike and lower requirements by industrial users located on Lake Ontario.

Traffic in iron and steel is not expected to be as buoyant as it was last year owing to a new voluntary quota agreement that limits U.S. steel imports to less than the 1971 record volume. Devaluation of the U.S. dollar, together with adjustments in other currencies, should also have a dampening effect on steel imports.

The outlook for the Canadian and U.S. economies as a whole is generally optimistic and an increase is, therefore, forecast for general cargo other than iron and steel.

NEW FISHERY FORESEEN

Five Canadian fishing vessels are investigating what Fisheries Minister Jack Davis describes as a promising new fishery in the Northwest Atlantic this summer. They are testing the feasibility of harvesting capelin, stocks of which are at present underutilized.

Capelin are small, tasty, smelt-like fish, which hold much promise as a source for human food, a matter of some consequence in view of the world demand for protein.

Dr. Wilfred Templeman, a prominent fisheries scientist formerly with the Fisheries Research Board of Canada and now of Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, is of the opinion that the stocks of capelin can support a substantial fishery. This view is endorsed by Dr. Olav Dragesund, a fisheries ecologist with the Institute of Marine Research at Bergen, Norway.

Dr. Dragesund's studies of migratory patterns, spawning behaviour and population dynamics of the species have played a key role in the development of the valuable Norwegian capelin fishery in the Barents Sea.

Four of the vessels in this summer's exercise are under charter to the Fisheries Service of the Department of the Environment. The fifth is operating on a shared cost basis between the federal Fisheries Service and the New Brunswick Department of Fisheries and Environment.