

### Treasure trove of Latin American history at McMaster

Canada will soon possess a unique record of New World history when the McMaster University Library's Archives and Special Collections division completes a microfilming project in Guatemala. The General Archives of Central America, embracing a wealth of Spanish New World history dating back to earliest colonial times, have been opened to McMaster under a contractual agreement with the Government of Guatemala to preserve the ancient records.

Resource materials covering the period from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries are now stored in Guatemala City, where they have been deteriorating over the centuries from the effects of moisture and insects. Urged by Professor John Browning of the McMaster Spanish department, University librarian William Ready and business manager Arthur Lawrence visited Guatemala and, following their visit, Guatemalan authorities agreed to allow McMaster to microfilm the contents of the archives for studies.

The Donner Canadian Foundation, of Toronto, granted \$35,000 to McMaster to initiate the program.

"It has already assumed well-nigh monumental significance," Professor Ready said, "and it will be of inesti-

mable service to scholars. This generous grant is one of the most enlightened of recent years in respect of library service, and since the commencement of filming last year McMaster University has acquired 800 reels of microfilm, equal to about 1,365,000 pages of documents."

There are from five to six million pages of documents in the General Archives, located in a nine-storey building. Copies will be made available to scholars across Canada.

#### Major source

The General Archives of Central America are among the three or four principal archives for study of the Spanish-American colonial period.

The project will make available to Canadian universities vast quantities of Spanish regime historical resource materials, ranging from literature and religion through geography, military matters, sociology, economics and anthropology.

The General Archives of Central America hold the major part of Spanish colonial records, and scholars have had to journey to Guatemala City to study and do research on aspects of Central American colonial times.

### Condolences to China

Prime Minister Trudeau expressed his "deep sadness" on January 8 on the death of Premier Chou En-lai of China.

Mr. Trudeau, in a telegram on behalf of the Canadian Government, himself and his family, conveyed regrets to the wife of the late premier and to the Chinese people.

### Soviet teams win "super series '76"

The two visiting ice hockey clubs from the U.S.S.R. — Central Red Army and the Soviet Wings — won the recent "super series '76" against National Hockey League teams by five games to two; one game, Red Army against Montreal Canadiens, on December 31, was tied at 3-3.

In the first game, December 28, Red Army defeated New York Rangers 7-3; on December 29, Wings beat Pittsburgh Penguins 7-4. On January 4, Buffalo Sabres won by 12-6 over Wings; on January 7, Wings beat Chicago Black Hawks 4-2; January 8, Red Army defeated Boston Bruins 5-2; January 10, Wings beat New York Islanders 2-1; and in the final game on January 11, Philadelphia Flyers beat Red Army by a score of 4-1.

### Fake falcon bird-strike deterrent

Significant progress has been made in reducing the number of collisions between birds and aircraft, but still much remains to be done. At the speed aircraft travel today, the impact of even small birds can shatter a windshield, puncture a wing, or completely destroy a jet engine.

At Vancouver International Airport, when the usual deterrents such as shell crackers, gas cannons, use of live shot, and runway patrol vehicles failed to dispel large flocks of small shore birds called dunlins (sometimes numbering 8,000), the problem was brought to the attention of the National Research Council of Canada's Associate Committee on Bird Hazards to Aircraft. Studies were initiated using live falcons and radio-controlled model aircraft as deterrents. The former method proved effective, but because

of the costs involved in maintenance and training, falcons would be used only if other methods failed. The use of conventional-shaped model aircraft



did not have the desired effect.

Ornithologists advised the committee that most birds were alerted by the shape of a predator. Would a falcon-shaped model aircraft then be more successful than a conventional-shaped one?

Captain Robert Randall (*right*), a DC-8 pilot with CP Air, who undertook to build a radio-controlled model shaped like a falcon, is shown with Captain Gordon Richardson, a member of the committee. Trials were carried out last year and the results proved successful. Dunlins, ducks, gulls and geese treated the falcon-shaped model as a potential threat and were effectively dispersed from the area. It still has to be determined if, through repeated exposure to the model, the birds will learn that it is different from a live falcon and not a threat to them. Further testing will be required before the technique can be fully evaluated.