

Dr. Clark said that the rapid increase in international trade in foodstuffs, the rapidly-growing diversity of microbiological methods for examining foods, the hazards created each time new techniques of mass production are developed, and introduction into trade of foods from areas where certain diseases are residual, has made surveillance very necessary. Salmonellosis, for one, is now considered a serious health problem. Dr. Clark stated:

"We are convinced that the work of the committee, particularly this testing exercise, will not only be extremely useful to those countries with a well-developed food control system, but will be invaluable to many technologically developing countries and to interested agencies such as the World Health Organization who are helping continuously in such technical development. To promote more bacteriological testing and to extend the influence of the committee — which is essentially a 'working party' — sub-committees are being formed in various parts of the world. One such sub-committee is already active in Latin America and another is being organized in the Balkan countries."

Dr. Clark said that an additional problem in food control is the matter of sampling procedures. Control agencies and industry alike are clamouring for authoritative guidance in this area. The committee has already initiated plans for the necessary study; a group of internationally known biometricians will be collaborating with the committee at a joint meeting to be held in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia next May.

### STAMP DESIGN STUDY

Postmaster General Eric W. Kierans has announced the creation of a task force which includes some of Canada's best-known artists and designers, to examine all aspects of the design and production of both definitive and commemorative stamps issued by the Canada Post Office. The chairman of the task force will be Gordon Cunningham, Director of Information and Public Relations, Canada Post Office. Its other members will be: Alex Colville (painter), Sackville, New Brunswick, Allan Fleming (designer), Toronto; Yves Gaucher (painter), Montreal; Julien Hebert (designer), Montreal, and David Silcox, Visual Arts Officer, Canada Council, Ottawa.

Mr. Kierans noted that proposals for such a study, or for similar measures, had been made for many years. The decision to go ahead now was made in the context of the complete re-examination of all phases of postal operations that is already under way.

A further consideration is that new equipment recently installed by the security printing companies under contract to the Canada Post Office has greatly expanded the available reproduction options. The security companies are now able to print by photogravure and lithography as well as by the well-established intaglio process, and in colour combinations of up to four.

The purpose of the task force, Mr. Kierans said, was to ensure that Canadian stamps would meet the highest international standards of philatelic and

artistic merit. It would, he added, examine all aspects of the design and printing of Canada Post Office stamps, including the choice of artists and their fees, selection of designs, and production techniques.

The Canada Post Office issues ten to 15 new commemorative stamps each year. The printing run for each issue is 26 million, a quantity sufficient to meet the needs of philatelists and for a ten-day sale to the general public. At intervals of four to seven years, the Canada Post Office also prints a new definitive issue of stamps in denominations from one cent to one dollar. The sale of commemorative and definitive stamps is an important source of revenue for the Canada Post Office, whose Postage Stamp Division in Ottawa records annual philatelic sales of over \$1 million. Additional sales are made at post offices. It is expected that by improved design, marketing and promotion, to raise the annual sales of Canada postage stamps to over \$2 million.

### LOAN TO THAILAND

A Canadian development loan of \$550,000 will assist Thailand in the preparation of an airport master plan to delineate the long-term civil aviation requirements of Bangkok and its environs. The proposed plan will cover international and domestic civil aviation needs, including expansion of the existing airport and construction of a new civil airport.

Thailand's Second Development Plan stresses the priority that country attaches to its transportation and communication sector because of its effective stimulation of private economic growth. During the current decade, Thailand's growth-rate of over 7 per cent a year reflects one of the most vigorous economies of the developing world. One of the factors of this growth has been Bangkok's position as an international air centre.

In 1966, almost twice as many passengers enplaned at Bangkok as were handled by Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver airports combined. At present, 26 international airlines serve the capital city area. With the rapid advancement in aircraft technology and the continuing growth in passenger volume it is vital that passenger, cargo and aircraft facilities keep pace with demands made upon them. Canadian capability in the transport sector is excellent and internationally recognized, while Thailand does not yet possess the requisite human resources to develop its airport needs.

Canada's 1968-69 development assistance programme in Thailand will amount to \$2,200,000, composed of \$1,200,000 in grant aid (primarily for technical assistance), and the balance in development loans.

An unusual custom among the Indians of western Canada forbade a son-in-law and mother-in-law to speak to one another. This practice, which indicated mutual respect, was also followed by daughters-in-law and fathers-in-law.