

this land out of production of any crop this year. I have discussed this program fully with the leaders of farm organizations in Western Canada and in many respects the program as it is now proposed has been improved by the adoption of their recommendations.

GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS

The proposed program is as follows:

Producers in the Wheat Board designated region who reduce wheat acreage below 1969 levels and increase summerfallow or perennial forage by the same amount will receive federal compensation payments of \$6 an acre for additions to summerfallow or \$10 an acre for additions to perennial forage acreage. Partial payment will be made before the end of July and the balance will be paid in the fall of this year.

Compensation payments will be available to a maximum of 22 million acres of additional summerfallow and 2 million acres of additional perennial forage. A maximum of 1,000 acres for any individual producer will be eligible for compensation payments.

The actual cost to the Government of the program, which will be administered by the Canada Department of Agriculture, is estimated at \$100 million.

Wheat delivery quotas for the 1970-71 crop year will be based on the total of: (a) 25 per cent of summerfallow acreage, as stated on the producers 1969 permit book; (b) total acreage of summerfallow in 1970; (c) the amount by which acreage in perennial forage in 1970 exceeds the acreage in perennial forage in 1969.

Quotas for oats, barley, soft spring wheat and other crops to which delivery quotas apply will be based on acres seeded to each crop in 1970. In addition, any producer may choose to allocate any or all of his acres qualified for wheat quota to any other crop instead of wheat.

This program will provide needed income to hard-pressed grain growers and encourage them to dispose of wheat stocks already piled up on their farms. It will allow farmers to cut back drastically on wheat acreage, while at the same time discouraging the wholesale switch to other crops.

A sharp reduction in wheat stocks will greatly enhance the continuing effort to strengthen international wheat prices. Foreign buyers are not willing to pay top prices when they know we are sitting on a mountain of grain. If farmers get behind this program and support it to the fullest, as I am sure they will, the cash position of grain producers and the whole Prairie economy will be substantially improved this fall.

This major initiative in reducing wheat stocks provides a unique opportunity for moving forward toward co-ordinated global programs of production policies for grain. The benefits from the new Canadian program will extend well beyond Canada to the world wheat economy. The governments of other exporting nations are similarly preoccupied with the

problems of surplus production; some have programs in place or are examining new ones designed to minimize the problem. This initiative in Canada, which represents a new and much stronger attack on the problems of surplus production, should add impetus to international efforts to stabilize the world grain economy.

MEETING WITH OTHER NATIONS

In order that this opportunity should not be lost, I have proposed to the Governments of Australia, Argentina and the U.S.A. and to the Commission of the European Economic Community that a meeting be held at ministerial level to review the Canadian program and consider complementary action which might be taken by others designed to compound its benefit internationally. I am confident these governments will agree to participate in an early meeting and I am hopeful this will mark a turning point in our efforts to rationalize the world grain situation.

In the meantime, every effort is being made to increase export sales. Increased food aid shipments and more attractive credit facilities have assisted the Canadian Wheat Board in attaining sales that will reach 375 million bushels this year, greater than any year save one in the history of the Board from 1943 to the year of the first major purchase by the U.S.S.R. in 1963.

With the successful completion of this major reduction program, market forecasts indicate that Canada will be able to return to a level of production in the area of 20 million acres. Additional measures will be required in 1971 to assure that production does not exceed acceptable levels.

STRATFORD TO ADELAIDE

The Stratford National Theatre of Canada has been invited to take part in the Adelaide Festival of the Arts in Australia in 1972, William T. Wylie, the general manager, announced recently.

The Adelaide Festival, an annual event featuring drama, music, opera and the visual arts, lasts for three weeks and includes performances by leading Australian artists as well as guest artists of international stature from other countries. This year, the arts festival will have the Royal Shakespeare Company of England in productions of *Twelfth Night* and *The Winter's Tale*. Among other distinguished visitors will be Rudolf Nureyev, who will appear as guest dancer and choreographer with the Australian Ballet.

Organizers of the event have dedicated 1972 to the nations of the Pacific, and it is in this context that Stratford has been invited to represent Canada.

In making the announcement, Mr. Wylie stressed that Stratford could not immediately make a firm commitment to attend, but he added that "the prospect of taking part in an arts festival of this nature is tremendously exciting and we're honored as a company to be invited as representatives of Canada".