

(C.W.B. April 28, 1965)

GOVERNMENT AID TO CUSO

The Secretary of State for External Affairs recently made the following statement:

The idea of voluntary overseas service in developing countries by young men and women is one of the most imaginative and significant developments of contemporary history.

For the past three years the Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO), a national, bilingual, non-sectarian organization, has been placing young men and women in positions in the developing countries. At present, there are just over 200 Canadians overseas under this programme.

Last year, for the first time, the Government assisted CUSO by the provision of transportation through the facilities of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

TOWARD AN EXPANDED PROGRAMME

I am pleased to announce that this year the Government intends to provide assistance in the order of half a million dollars from external aid funds, so that CUSO may greatly expand its work. It is my hope that this government support, which will include, among other types of assistance, all the transportation requirements of CUSO, will enable this organization to double its existing programme and to be able to have 400 volunteers at work in the developing countries by this September.

I believe that an active working partnership between CUSO and the Government can be achieved and maintained, a partnership which will preserve the independence and the vitality and the voluntary character of CUSO, while at the same time lending the stability and resources of the Government....

APPEAL TO YOUNG CANADIANS

I know that young Canadians will come forward to offer their services and vigorously support this voluntary programme. Our objective is to make it possible for any qualified person for whom a worthwhile position can be found in the developing countries to serve abroad for a period of two or three years. The qualifications for service do not necessarily include a university degree. Nurses, technicians, accountants, stenographers and a great many other skilled persons are required, although there is a particularly heavy demand for teachers with university training.

I should hope that, within one or two years, we can have as many as 1,000 young Canadians serving abroad in developing countries.

One of the first tasks of the Company of Young Canadians will be to study and assess the many requirements which will be involved in preparing for this great expansion in the numbers of young Canadians serving abroad in programmes of international development such as CUSO.

The Company of Young Canadians will work in the closest possible co-ordination and co-operation with CUSO and I should hope that within a short time there could be some announcement made about further developments in this exciting area, which I am confident, will capture the imagination of all Canadians.

ARMED FORCES COMMUNICATIONS

A milestone in the integration of the Canadian armed forces was marked during April by the creation of the nucleus of the new Canadian Forces Communication System. This is the first armed-forces functional formation to be fully integrated under a single command.

From an initial core of a headquarters in Ottawa and ten centres across Canada, the CFCS will eventually embrace most of the fixed communication facilities of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Air Force, with their overseas links. These include some 180 locations in Canada, manned by about 3,600 service and civilian personnel.

At this stage, it is too early to estimate the manpower savings that will be made once the single system is in operation, but it is expected that they will be significant.

PROCESS OF UNIFICATION

The new communication headquarters has been set up to co-ordinate and manage the three service systems and to integrate them into one. This will be carried out progressively over a period while equipment is relocated and common procedures are adopted. Eventually, a single system will provide fixed communication facilities in Canada to all the armed forces and federal emergency organizations.

CFCS will establish squadrons at major communications centres in Canada, with each squadron providing service to Navy, Army and Air Force units within its area. Squadron detachments will be located at most of the units being served.

It is expected that the adoption of the new system will materially enhance the efficiency of armed forces communications and provide improved service to all users.

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EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE

In 1964, the Export Credits Insurance Corporation insured a record total of \$346-million worth of consumer and capital goods exports — more than double the value of export sales it insured in 1963. During the year, the Corporation provided financing for Canada's first export sale of a nuclear power plant, to be built in India.

These and other facts and figures of last year's operations have been published in ECIC's annual report for 1964, which was tabled in the House of Commons recently by Mr. Mitchell Sharp, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, through whom the Corporation reports to Parliament.

The Crown-owned Corporation, established in 1945 to promote the expansion of Canada's export trade by offering protection for exporters against non-payment by foreign buyers, today operates in the two complementary fields of export-credits insurance and long-term export financing. Thus, while ECIC continues to insure export-credit sales, it may also provide financing for large export sales of capital goods where long-term credit is required.