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## U.S.S.R. buys more Canadian wheat

The Canadian Wheat Board has announced the sale of 1.8 million tonnes of wheat, valued at approximately \$242.6 million, to the Soviet Union. The shipments will comprise 1.5 million tonnes of No. 1 and No. 2 Canada western red spring wheat and 300,000 tonnes of Canada western amber durum wheat.

Added to an earlier sale announced mid-summer, the latest shipments bring to 3.5 million tonnes the total Canadian wheat sales to the U.S.S.R.

Canadian wheat and flour exports during 1976-77 are estimated at 13.5 million tonnes, the largest export volume during the past four years, and another high volume of exports seems assured for 1977-78.

A decrease in planted area and lower yields because of poor weather contributed to a reduced wheat production in Canada in 1977. Production is forecast at 17.5 million tonnes compared with 23.6 million last year.

Elsewhere, increases in wheat production are expected in the U.S.S.R., the European Economic Community and Australia, while decreases are forecast for Canada, the United States, China and India. World trade in 1977-78 is expected to increase by about 10 per cent to 67.5 million



*Beneath a typical Canadian prairie sky, grain elevators stand ready to move to market the yields of the wheat fields that surround them.*

tonnes, mainly owing to expected record imports of more than 9.5 million tonnes by China. Increased feeding of wheat to livestock is expected in the United States and the U.S.S.R., contributing to an increase in use to 395 million tonnes. A

small decline in world stocks is possible by the end of 1977-78. The smaller crop in 1977 and the prospects of a still smaller crop in 1978, should result in wheat prices staying at or above current levels.

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## IDRC President to World Bank

Dr. W.D. Hopper has resigned as President of the International Development Research Centre to accept an appointment as Vice-President for South Asia with the World Bank in Washington. He will assume his new duties on January 1, 1978.

Dr. Hopper, an internationally-recognized agricultural economist, had been President of the IDRC since the Centre was established in 1970, under the chairmanship of the late Lester Pearson.

Following Dr. Hopper's resignation, the IDRC's Board of Governors established a special committee comprising: Chairman Louis Rasminsky, Vice-Chairman Dr. Roger Blais, and Maurice Strong — all of Canada — Sir John Crawford (Australia), and Rex Nettleford (Jamaica), to recommend his successor.

Under the IDRC Act, the President is appointed for a five-year term by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Board.



*Dr. W.D. Hopper*

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## Drilling season deadlines

Cabinet has rejected an application from Dome Petroleum to extend the drilling season at each of its three sites in the Beaufort Sea beyond the September 25 cut-off date established by Cabinet last spring. Approval was given to continue drilling at only one of these sites for a limited period beyond this date.

An evaluation of the current situation at the Nektoralik site indicated that the company had already penetrated an extensive gas zone and would not be able to reach the depth for safe discontinuation of drilling, and setting of steel casing, within the deadline.

The Nektoralik site is being drilled in 200 feet of water, approximately 100 miles northwest of the village of Tuktoyaktuk, N.W.T. Better than average ice and weather conditions in the Beaufort Sea this season previously led Cabinet to allow some flexibility on the termination date for drilling.