

ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

Governor-General Roland Michener opened the Second Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse, capital of the Yukon Territory, on March 6.

Participants in the six-day Games, which are held every two years, must have lived above the 60th Parallel at least six months. They come from the Northwest Territories, the Yukon and Alaska - 299 from each area. This year as an experiment, 80 competitors in junior events came from northern Quebec. Winners of the first, second and third places receive medals, shaped like *ulus*, the characteristic Eskimo cutting tools, cast in gold, silver and bronze.

Besides the traditional sports such as badminton, basketball, curling, skating, ice hockey, skiing and wrestling, 20 Eskimo and Indian games such as *ipirautaqturniq* (a whip contest), *tiliraginik qirigtagtut* (jumping through the stick) and *aksunaiqtug* (rope gymnastics), are included in the Arctic Winter Games.

VISITORS FROM EASTERN RUSSIA

At the invitation of Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of

Indian Affairs and Northern Development, two senior officials of the Soviet Republic of Yakut were also present as official observers of the Games.

Semeon Ivanovich Alexsaev, president of the sports committee of the Yakutian Republic, and Maximovich Danilov, who is in charge of the sports program in the Yakutian Ministry of Education, travelled to Moscow from their home in eastern Russia, changed planes in Montreal and then made the trip to Whitehorse, where they stayed for a week. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development paid all travel expenses and provided an interpreter for the visitors.

The Governor General said in his opening address that the establishment of the Games was "a mark of the character and determination of our northern compatriots". "It is evidence, too," he declared, "of a growing independence among northern people and a feeling that they have a community life of their own which is distinctive and viable."



Contestants in the harpoon contest