

broadcasting facilities, on an interim basis, which would be transferred to the new Agency when it has been established.

"I should like to point out to the House that these decisions are consistent with the present apportionment of powers under the constitution which gives the provinces full authority in the field of education, whereas communication systems, including broadcasting, fall within the jurisdiction of the Federal Government.

"It is proposed that the Canadian Radio-Television Commission will issue to the Agency that we will set up, broadcasting licences to be used in connection with provincially-approved programmes. This arrangement will enable the provinces to retain their basic responsibility with regard to the preparation and production of programmes. However, since the actual broadcasting of these programmes remains a responsibility of the Federal Government, there will be no need to change the long-standing federal policy of not issuing broadcasting licences to the provinces or their agents.

"The task force, which will be established to assist in the implementation of this new programme, will have as one of its primary tasks, to pursue earlier discussions with the provinces to work out the details of the programme, including the extent and timing of the Federal Government's financial participation which will be limited to the support of its own responsibilities under the proposed arrangement."

TRADE SURPLUS THIS YEAR

Canada is well on its way to its first \$1-billion trade surplus, the largest since the war, Trade Minister Jean-Luc Pepin said in an address at the annual meeting of the Canadian Export Association held recently in Montebello, Quebec.

Mr. Pepin also saw signs of a moderate increase in exports during 1969 — perhaps 5 to 10 per cent — and outlined the possible structure of the combined Departments of Industry, Trade and Commerce after the integration has been approved by Parliament.

Export performance has been "more than consistent", with a goal of \$12.3 billion established a year ago. An 18.4 per cent increase (up \$1.6 billion to \$9.9 billion) has been achieved in the first nine months of 1968, compared to the figure for the same period last year. Imports during this period are up 10 per cent. The balance on current transactions, though still a deficit, may be somewhat less than half a billion dollars.

The Minister reported that tourism showed signs of producing the largest surplus of the postwar period, except for the \$427-million surplus in centennial year.

The exceptional buoyancy of the United States economy was the dominant factor underpinning Canada's strong export performance, Mr. Pepin said. Exports to the U.S. are up \$1.2 billion, or 25 per cent, this year. Exports overseas are up only slightly, partly owing to a smaller movement of wheat together

with severe demand restraint in Britain and difficulties of external payments in Japan, Canada's two largest overseas markets.

About two-fifths of this year's export gains consisted of automotive products, while copper, iron and steel, lumber and woodpulp, nickel and aluminum, petroleum and natural gas and aircraft were important contributions to the growth in exports.

LOOKING AHEAD

Mr. Pepin foresaw a slowing-down in the growth of United States purchases from Canada during 1969, but noted that in overseas markets there were encouraging signs of resumption of a stronger advance in total exports. "All things considered, a further growth in Canada's exports within the range of 5 to 10 per cent should be a commendable achievement for the coming year," he said.

INTERNATIONAL FISHING RULES

Fisheries Minister Jack Davis said recently that the Canadian Government had passed an Order-in-Council confirming Canada's acceptance of changes in regulations governing the fisheries of the north-west Atlantic. He said that Canada and 13 other members of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries were concerned with the effects of the heavy fishing on the stocks of fish in the area.

The new regulations will include additional species of fish under conservation measures establishing minimum mesh sizes for the nets used. Cod and haddock have been covered by these regulations for years. The minimum mesh sizes, ranging from four to four-and-a-half inches and depending on the area being fished and the type of gear used, are designed to allow the escape of fish below the legal size for commercial use.

In all ICNAF fishing areas northeast of, but not including Georges Bank off New England as far as the coast of Labrador, flounders will be included in the minimum mesh-size regulations. In the Grand Banks area, which extends westward and southward more than 600 miles, halibut and Greenland halibut are included in the regulations. In the northern section of the Grand Banks, redfish come within the minimum mesh-size restrictions.

For the purpose of administration, the 200,000 square miles of fishing waters in the ICNAF area are divided into five sub-areas. The system of control now in operation calls for each fishing nation to be responsible for the enforcement of ICNAF regulations for its own nationals. Canada, for example, sends patrol vessels to the fishing banks and officers have authority to board Canadian fishing craft.

Canada was one of the original signatories to the international convention when it was set up almost 20 years ago. There are now 14 member nations, including Britain, Canada, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Poland, Romania, Spain, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.