

## VISIT BY EUROPEAN GAS EXPERTS

Commercial development of recent large-scale discoveries of natural gas in Western Europe provides a good potential for increased exports of Canadian-made gas appliances and equipment. Accordingly, the Department of Trade and Commerce and the Canadian Gas Association sponsored the visit to Canada of 14 gas officials from eight European countries from May 9 to 16.

The prime purpose of the mission, which spent most of its time in the Toronto area, was to acquaint its members with the facilities and methods employed at the CGA testing laboratories in Toronto, with a view to streamlining the process of obtaining foreign approval on Canadian-made gas appliances. In the past, difficulties in attaining such approval had sometimes arisen and produced an inhibiting affect on the development of exports from Canada.

### HIGH CANADIAN STANDARDS

The Association hopes that the high standard of testing to which Canadian gas appliances are subjected and the ability of its laboratories to test equipment to the various standards and specifications required by different European countries have been amply demonstrated.

It is proposed that any Canadian equipment for export to Europe be tested in Canada before being sent abroad.

Although Canadian equipment would still have to pass inspection in the purchasing country, such pre-testing should greatly increase the likelihood of trouble-free approval.

While in Toronto, the mission also visited a number of firms engaged in the manufacture of gas appliances, heating equipment and controls and equipment.

### REPRESENTATION BY COUNTRY INVOLVED

The eight countries and their representatives in the group were: Austria - Dr. Walter Jorde, Director, Wiener Stadtwerke-Gaswerke, Vienna; Belgium - Mr. R.H. Touwaide, General Secretary, Royal Belgium Gas Association, Brussels, and Mr. Edgar Van den Broeck, Assistant Director of the Federation of the Gas Industry, Brussels; Denmark - Mr. Herlov Jensen, Danmarks Gasmateriel Provning, Copenhagen; France - Mr. P. Delbourg, Chef du Centre d'Essais et de Recherches No. 2, Directeur des Etudes et Techniques nouvelles du Gaz en France, La Plaine Saint Denis (Seine), and Mr. A. Lihmann, General Secretary, L'Association technique de l'Industrie du Gaz en France, Paris; Germany - Mr. J. Hoppner, Dipl.-Ing., Deutscher Verein Von Gas-und-Wasserfachmannern, Frankfurt, and Mr. B. Naendorf, Dipl.-Ing., Secretary, Deutscher Verein Von Gas-und-Wasserfachmannern, Frankfurt; the Netherlands - Mr. Ir.A. de Groot, President of Vereniging Gas-Fabrikanten, The Hague, Mr. J.H. Steinhamp, Secretary of the Association of Gas Manufacturers and Secretary of the Association of Municipal Gas Boards, The Hague, and Mr. A.M. Buijserd, Manager, Domestic Appliances, Netherlands Gas Institute, The Hague; Italy - Dr. Giancarlo Rezzonico of Comitato

Italiano Gas, Milan; Switzerland - Mr. H. Raeber, Manager, Swiss Society of Gas and Water Engineers, Zurich.

## EXPORT CREDITS COUNCIL MEETS

The twentieth meeting of the Advisory Council of the Export Credits Insurance Corporation was held on May 11 at the Seignior Club, Montebello, Quebec, to review the Corporation's 1964 operations and its plans for the future. The Council is composed of prominent businessmen from all parts of Canada, appointed by the Governor in Council, who meet periodically with the directors and officers of the Corporation to discuss operations and ensure that ECIC services are adequately meeting the needs of Canadian exporters.

### ORIGIN OF CORPORATION

ECIC was established by the Government to encourage the growth of Canada's exports by offering exporters low-cost insurance against non-payment for goods sold on credit terms to foreign and Commonwealth buyers. Since it started operations in 1945, the Corporation has insured \$1.7 billion worth of exports to over 100 countries. It also administers Canada's long-term export-financing programme, and since 1961, when the first contract was authorized under Section 21A of the Export Credits Insurance Act, it has provided financing for the export sale of capital equipment and related engineering services valued at \$220 million.

### CULTURAL GRANT TO FRANCE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, recently announced in Paris that, in conformity with its desire to enhance cultural exchanges between Canada and France, the Canadian Government had decided to make a \$45,000 grant to the Maison canadienne at the Cité universitaire de Paris to help the management of that institution pay the cost of urgent repairs needed for the improvement of student living conditions.

The Maison canadienne is a student residence situated in the Cité universitaire, where many countries maintain similar institutions. It accommodates 71 students from all the provinces of Canada and, in accordance with the custom of the Cité universitaire, a few students from foreign countries.

### SHOPPING CENTRES IN CANADA

Sales by Canada's shopping centres in 1963 amounted to about \$1,340,189,000, an increase of 14.3 per cent from the 1962 total of \$1,172,112,000, according to an advance release of data that will be contained in the 1963 issue of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics report "Shopping Centres in Canada". The number of stores increased 7.7 per cent in the year, to 4,645 from 4,314 in the preceding year. Shopping-centre sales accounted for 7.1 per cent of all 1963 retailing in Canada, a sharp rise from the 1957 average of 2.5 per cent.