

COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE

The Commonwealth Communications Conference, which began on November 13 in Ottawa, will last for three weeks, with 26 member countries participating in this first such meeting at government level since the formation of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization.

The CTO, which came into being in 1969 as a result of recommendations made at a London conference in 1966, replaced the Commonwealth Telecommunications Board, which had existed since 1949 and of which Canada was a founding member.

The Canadian delegation is headed by Mr. Allan Gotlieb, Deputy Minister of Communications. Mr. Jean-Claude Delorme, the deputy head, is President and General Manager of the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation and is Canada's representative on the Commonwealth Telecommunications Council. The Council's responsibility is to develop recommendations for periodic conferences of governments and to implement their decisions.

Delegates to the Ottawa conference are reviewing progress made since 1966 and are also studying future telecommunications needs of the Commonwealth, particularly in the light of changing international traffic patterns and requirements, and in the light of new technological developments such as high-capacity submarine cables and satellites. One of the major items is the matter of a unified system of accounting that would embrace all telecommunications media, including satellites.

This is the first time that Canada has been host to a conference of Commonwealth telecommunications representatives.

The Commonwealth Telecommunications System is one of the world's largest commercial networks. It comprises a global configuration served by ten earth stations for communication through the satellites of Intelsat; more than 26,000 miles of submarine

wideband cable system, 86/HF radio stations and 115,000 miles of submarine telegraph cables. The gross revenues earned by these installations amounts to some \$500 million.

DEATHS AND CAUSES, 1971

Statistics Canada reports that 157,272 Canadian residents died last year, slightly more than the 155,961 who died in 1970. Deaths increased in Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia, but declined in the other six provinces. The national death-rate for both sexes was 7.3 a 1,000, unchanged from 1969 and 1970. Provincial and Territorial death-rates varied from 5.7 in the Yukon to 9.0 in Prince Edward Island.

Of the 157,272 deaths recorded, 77,730, or 49.4 per cent, were from diseases of the heart and circulatory system, 31,036 or 19.7 per cent from cancer, and 12,031 or 7.6 per cent from accidents. The corresponding figures for 1970 were 77,343, 30,483 and 11,378, respectively. These having been the three leading causes of death since 1951, their relative importance has changed little in recent years. Deaths from diseases of the respiratory system declined to 10,286 from 10,698.

Fatalities from motor-vehicle accidents increased to 5,690 from 5,312, falls to 1,774 from 1,609, fire to 647 from 634, and poisonings to 699 from 720, but drownings decreased to 1,064 from 1,173. Suicides increased to 2,559 from 2,413 in 1970, advancing the rate for each 100,000 of population to 11.9 from 11.3. There were 458 homicides in 1971 compared to 421 the previous year, and the rate for each 100,000 of population rose to 2.1 from 2.0.

In 1971, 6,356 infants (under 1 year) died, reducing the infant death-rate for each 1,000 live births to a record low figure of 17.5. The provincial infant death-rates varied from 15.3 in Ontario to 22.9 in Newfoundland.

CHEDDAR CHEESE CHASE

Canadian cheddar cheese is popular in many countries — yet no one knows for sure what makes up its flavour and aroma, or how they are formed in the cheese-making process. So far, a total of 150 compounds have been spotted in cheddar volatiles, but no combination of these compounds has been found to reproduce the original aroma.

Scientists at Agriculture Canada's Food Research Institute in Ottawa, hope to trap the flavour constituents of Canadian cheddar to give the nation's dairy industry a clue for better control of its cheese-manufacturing processes.

