

CONSORTIUM ON INDIAN AID

On June 2, Prime Minister Diefenbaker made the following statement to the House of Commons:

"The House will recall that Canada has been represented at meetings this week of a consortium of countries and international agencies concerned with the financing of the foreign exchange requirements of India's third Five-Year Plan. This meeting concluded successfully yesterday and agreed on the text of a statement....

"I will not endeavour to repeat the details furnished in the statement. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Governments of Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States and by representatives of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Agency. France joined the consortium as a member during the meeting.

"At this meeting, the members of the consortium undertook commitments of aid to India totalling over \$2 billion for the first two years of the Five-Year Plan. These large commitments should enable India to launch this plan of economic development with confidence in the ultimate achievement of its objectives. The group recognized that, in order to carry out the plan, it will be necessary not only for India to devote very considerable resources to financing it but also it will have to be supplemented by a very large inflow of capital, both private and public.

TOTAL COMMITMENT

"The total commitments undertaken for the first two years amount to \$2,225 million. Included in that is \$56 million from Canada. This Canadian figure is at a rate of \$28 million for each of the two years. This includes \$18 million each year of aide made available under the Colombo Plan and \$10 million in each of the two years, which the Government has undertaken to allocate in the form of export credits, contingent upon the approval by Parliament of the amendments to the Export Credits Insurance Act, in anticipation of which there is now a resolution on the Order Paper.

"In addition to these commitments the United States has undertaken to assist India by making available surplus commodities. India is also receiving grants of wheat from Canada. I point out that these grants are over and above the commitment of \$28 million a year for the first two years. Seven million dollars has been set aside this year in anticipation of a request being received from India for wheat. The House will recall that last year the same amount was furnished in wheat in response to a request from India.

"I am sure that all Hon. Members of the House will welcome the successful outcome of this international meeting, which is of vital importance to peace. Parliament will be asked in due course to take the measures necessary for Canada to implement its share in these undertakings. The statement points out that the commitments made in the meetings in Washington in General are subject to legislative authorization...."

SEAWAY TRAFFIC

The movement of cargo vessels through the St. Lawrence Seaway to the end of May shows a slight increase over that for the like period of 1960. The increase is believed to be largely due to the heavier movement of grain downbound from the Upper Lakes. Figures compiled for the St. Lambert Lock, at the entrance to the Seaway near Montreal, show a net increase of 103 vessel passages over those reported for the comparable period the previous year.

Downbound movements increased by 86 vessels and upbound by 17 for a grand total of 1,213 transits, compared with 1,110 for the same period for 1960. Ocean vessels totalled 445, both upbound and downbound, for April and May 1961, compared with 415 in the comparable period of 1960. Inland cargo-vessel passages increased from 572 in 1960 to 680 for the present season so far.

The cumulative total traffic for the Lake Ontario entrance to the Welland Canal, at Port Weller shows a decrease of 108 vessel movements, from 1,716 last year to 1,608 during the April-May period, 1961. This decrease is attributed by Seaway officials almost entirely to a considerable movement of construction tugs and barges through the Port Weller entrance early in 1960, which has not occurred this year.

Ocean-vessel passages through Port Weller have, in fact, increased from 391 to 439 (some 12 per cent), but inland cargo-vessel transits decreased from 992 in 1960 to 951 in the same period of 1961. During the first two months of navigation this year, 218 vessels of "other" types passed through the Port Weller entrance upbound and downbound.

ELECTRIC POWERS

The total net generation of electric energy by plants that produce 10 million kilowatt hours or more *per annum* amounted to 9,414,495 mwh in April, little changed from last year's corresponding total of 9,408,824 mwh. The month's imports of electric energy advanced sharply to 90,754 mwh from 23,442 mwh a year earlier, while exports dropped to 423,436 mwh from 448,364 mwh. Thus, energy made available in Canada in the month amounted to 9,081,813 mwh, against 8,983,902 mwh; and of this amount some 565,081 mwh were used in electric boilers compared to 699,517 mwh.

Net generation in the January-April period fell to 38,271,805 mwh from 38,808,725 mwh a year ago. Imports of electric energy increased to 368,038 mwh from 121,070 mwh, while exports decreased to 1,211,297 mwh from 1,609,901 mwh. Energy made available in Canada in the four months totalled 37,428,546 mwh, compared to 37,319,894 mwh, and of this amount some 2,187,969 mwh were used in electric boilers against 2,857,937 mwh.