

### Canadian wins world water ski championship for second time

George Athans of Kelowna, British Columbia, retained his world title in water skiing when he won the XIII World Championships in Bogota, Columbia, last month after a spectacular performance in the slalom event.

Athans, who has held the Canadian title since 1968, won his first world championship in Spain in 1971. He has been a member of Canada's National Team since 1966.

In Bogota, Athans was in second place in the Jumping and Tricks event but he pulled ahead to win after his showing in the slalom. A fourth year film-course student at Sir George Williams University, Montreal, Athans first learned to water ski on an ironing

board when he was four years old.

The Canadian team, which attended a reception at the Canadian Embassy in Bogota and given a tour round the city, finished second over-all to the U.S. team.

In slalom water skiing, the skier tries to round six buoys on either side of the boat. Boat speeds increase to 36 miles an hour as each stage is completed and the tow line is shortened.

Jumpers, who have three passes at the jumping ramp, are pulled at a speed of 35 miles an hour. In the Tricks event, 180-, 360 and 540-degree turns on two skis and on one ski are included.



World champion water skier George Athans makes slalom look easy.

### Contribution to United Nations Children's Fund

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, has presented a cheque in the amount of \$1.9 million to the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Mr. Henry R. Labouisse, as the Canadian Government's annual contribution to the Fund for 1973. This brings Canada's total contribution, since UNICEF was established in 1946, to more than \$27 million.

In addition to these funds Canadians, through private organizations and the

Government's Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), contributed an additional sum of \$2.1 million in 1972.

#### Pledge to UN population fund

Canada has also pledged a contribution of \$2 million to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), bringing to \$7 million the total Canadian support to UNFPA since its inception in 1969. Canada is among the eight major contributors.

UNFPA is financed by voluntary contributions from a number of UN members. Its programs extend over a wide range of population-related activities from family planning to demographic studies. Canada considers population and family planning program to be an important aspect of development assistance, aimed at improving living standards in the developing countries. An additional responsibility of the Fund involves the international activities related to World Population Year 1974, the highlight of which will be the World Population Conference in Bucharest next August.

### Quebec election in October

Premier Robert Bourassa of Quebec announced recently that an election would be held in his province on October 29. The present government in Quebec was elected on April 29, 1970. At dissolution the standings were: Liberals 70 seats; Union Nationale 16; Creditistes 11; Parti Quebecois 7; Independents 2; and two seats vacant.

### Lowest birth rate ever in '72

A total of 347,319 Canadian births were registered in 1972, the lowest since 1946 and nearly 15,000 below the corresponding 1971 total of 362,187. The crude birth rate (per 1,000 population) declined to 15.9 in 1972 from 16.8 in 1971. The rate was the lowest recorded since establishment of the national system of vital statistics in 1921.

All provinces except Newfoundland showed a smaller number of registered births in 1972 than were recorded during the previous year.

### Deaths

The number of registered deaths rose by over 5,000 to 162,413 in 1972 from 157,272 in 1971. The rate per 1,000 population advanced to 7.4 from 7.3 in the same period. The male rate per 1,000 population rose to 8.7 in 1972 from 8.5 in 1971, while the corresponding female rate edged up to 6.2 from 6.1. The number of recorded deaths in 1972 showed an increase in all ten provinces compared to those of the previous year.