

**NEW SHIP PASSAGES:** Official congratulations have been sent to the Arctic patrol ship, HMCS Labrador, on the establishment of two vital new deep-draft ship passages in the Canadian Arctic, the Royal Canadian Navy announced.

The most recent notable passage made by the Labrador occurred when she became the first deep-draft ship to sail through Bellot Strait, between Somerset Island and Boothia Peninsula, thus establishing an alternate eastward escape route for ships operating in the central and western Arctic.

The earlier passage was between Resor and Pike Islands at the south-eastern end of Baffin Island, a discovery which offers a new deep-draft channel into Frobisher Bay from the Foxe Basin area.

The Naval Board of Canada had praise for both of the Labrador's exploits in its message to the Labrador, under the command of Captain T.C. Pullen of Oakville, Ont., and Halifax. The Naval Board's message, dispatched from Ottawa, commended the Labrador on the transit of Bellot Strait and added, "The continued meeting of assigned tasks and undertaking of unassigned projects of such significance as the survey of Frobisher Bay reflect great credit on the officers and men of HMCS Labrador and their civilian collaborators."

Two United States Navy admirals also sent their appreciation of the Labrador's work.

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**CANADIAN HONOURED:** The City of Antwerp has paid tribute to a distinguished Canadian general who figured prominently in its liberation from the Germans in 1944.

At ceremonies commemorating the 13th anniversary of its regained freedom the city named one of its streets after Lt.-Gen. Guy Granville Simonds, who commanded the 1st Canadian Army in the relief of the Scheldt estuary during the Second World War. General Simonds retired two years ago as the Canadian Army's Chief of the General Staff.

The event took place in one of Antwerp's main squares. The programme included concerts by Belgian, Canadian and United States military bands, a flag-raising ceremony, the laying of a wreath by Antwerp's Burgomaster and the sounding of the Last Post.

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**ROYAL VISIT STAMP:** Mr. William Hamilton, Postmaster General, has announced the details of the new design postage stamp that will be issued to commemorate the visit to Canada in October of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. The stamp will be issued for sale to the public on October 10, 1957.

The stamp portraying the Queen and the Prince in profile was designed and engraved by the Canadian Bank Note Company, Limited, from photographic portraits prepared by Karsh of Ottawa. The colour of the stamp will be black.

This special issue will be of the five cent denomination and slightly larger than the small size stamps now in use that portray Her Majesty, but will be distributed in panes of one hundred stamps each.

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**NATO SEA EXERCISES:** Eight ships of the Royal Canadian Navy, including four anti-submarine destroyer escorts of the new St. Laurent class are taking part in the first phase of a series of NATO exercises in the Atlantic.

Exercise Sea Spray concludes on September 13, following which the Canadian ships will call at Portland, England, for two days before proceeding to participate in further NATO exercises, which will carry on until the end of September.

The concept for Exercise Sea Spray is to test the movement of ships from the western to the eastern Atlantic as part of an alert for NATO forces. A combined tactical exercise, it has been designed to train the participating forces in co-ordinated operations in all phases of underway tactics and anti-submarine warfare.

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**TRI-SERVICE GUARD:** A tri-service Royal Household Guard will be mounted at Government House while Her Majesty the Queen is in residence October 12 to October 16 and will perform the ceremonies of guard mounting on October 12, guard changing on October 13, 14 and 15, and guard dismounting on October 16.

The Guard of Honour for the opening of Parliament will be provided by the 1st Battalion, The Canadian Guards. The Guard for the arrival at Uplands will be provided by the R.C.A.F., and the Navy will mount the Guard for the departure.

Details of participation by Militia and Reserve units in the supplementary programme are to be announced later.

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**CANADA'S NET DEBT:** Mr. Donald M. Fleming, Minister of Finance, has announced that the Government of Canada's revenues for the fiscal year 1956-57 were \$5,107 million, or \$42 million less than the forecast of \$5,149 million given by the previous Minister of Finance in his budget speech of March 14, 1957.

Expenditures, including a provision of \$50 million for the reserve for losses on the realization of assets and \$50 million as a special government contribution to reduce the unamortized portion of the public service superannuation account liability, were \$4,849 million or \$18 million less than the budget forecast of \$4,867 million.

Consequently the budget surplus was \$258 million compared with the forecast of \$282 million given in the budget speech.

Mr. Fleming pointed out that if the expenditures had not included these two items of \$50 million the surplus for the fiscal year would have been \$358 million.