

AIR PACT WITH CHINA

Air negotiations between Canada and China, which began last May in Peking, have been satisfactorily concluded and it is expected that direct air service between the two countries will be inaugurated early in 1973.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, who made the announcement on October 13, said that the terms of the agreement had been initialled by the heads of both delegations and would be submitted to the Chinese and Canadian Governments for approval. The successful completion of these talks coincides with the second anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and the People's Republic of China. Terms of the agreement, not yet disclosed, have been submitted for approval to the two governments.

The basic aim of this agreement is to establish direct air transportation which will facilitate trade and other exchanges between the two countries.

STRATFORD FESTIVAL'S EUROPEAN TOUR

Stratford Festival's visit to Europe, under the auspices of the Department of External Affairs, will get under way in January, with two productions planned for a seven-week tour to four countries.

The highly successful production of *King Lear*, which played at the Festival Theatre till October 21, will be revamped for presentation on a proscenium



William Hutt as King Lear

arch stage. Joining Shakespeare's great tragedy in the Stratford National Theatre touring repertory will be the comedy, *The Taming of the Shrew*, directed by Jean Gascon. William Hutt will re-create his role of King Lear, and David William will direct the production. It is expected that many members of the original cast will be retained.

On January 21, a chartered jet aircraft will be waiting at Montreal International Airport to transport company, all associated personnel and cargo to Denmark on the first lap of the tour. Some 48 people will travel on the flight.

Opening night in Europe will be at the Royal Theatre in Copenhagen on January 24. From there, it's on to Hamburg, Warsaw, Krakow, Moscow and Leningrad, where the final performance will be given on March 5.

This will be the third overseas venture for Stratford. In 1956, the company appeared at the Edinburgh Festival in *Henry V* and *Oedipus Rex*, directed by Michael Langham. Eight years later, in 1964, they took part in the celebration of the four-hundredth anniversary of Shakespeare's birth at the Chichester Festival, playing a three-week engagement and presenting three productions: *Timon of Athens*, *Love's Labour's Lost* and Molière's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*.

WEATHER FORECASTS BY COMPUTER

Weather-forecasting facilities in Canada are to be improved to the highest scientific standards, Environment Minister Jack Davis said recently, when next year, the Atmospheric Environment Service (AES) begins to use one of the most powerful computers to analyze weather data.

Under a contract costing \$6.3 million with Control Data Canada Limited the AES will lease a computer system (CYBER 70 Model 76) for a seven-year period.

Under the new system, which will enable weather observations to be assessed ten times speedier than at present, meteorologists will be able to forecast the weather in much finer detail and with greater accuracy. The system will also be used for research conducted by AES scientists.

The unit, which is to be installed at the Canadian Meteorological Centre in Montreal, will become operational in autumn 1973.

The Model 76 is capable of handling 15 million instructions a second, which permits the processing of a continuous flow of data from weather observations across Canada and from ships at sea. The computer will virtually reconstruct the atmosphere from these readings and translate it into forecast patterns for the following 48 hours and beyond.

Information fed into the computer includes temperatures, humidity, winds at various altitudes and historical weather data for specific areas.