

PROPOSAL ACCEPTED

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, has announced that the Government of the Soviet Union had accepted the Western proposal that the Ten-Power Disarmament Committee begin its work in Geneva on or about March 15, 1960. The Soviet reply was contained in a Note delivered by the Soviet Ambassador in Ottawa.

The Soviet Note was in reply to the suggestion submitted on December 22 by the French Ambassador in Moscow to the Soviet Ministry for Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Governments of Canada, France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States, the five Western members of the Ten-Power Disarmament Committee, that the Disarmament Committee meet in Geneva on or about March 15 next. This suggestion was put forward after the subject had been discussed at a meeting in Paris on December 20 of the foreign ministers of the five Western nations, in the course of the recent Ministerial meeting of the North Atlantic Council.

The Soviet Note indicated that similar communications had been sent to the Governments of France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

ALBERTA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

One hundred and forty-four pupils including one Eskimo girl, enrolled at the Alberta school for the Deaf at Edmonton with the commencement of its fourth operational term in September.

Located south of the University of Alberta campus in Edmonton, the school is considered to be one of the most modern in North America. Students, between the ages of five and eighteen receive educational instruction up to the grade eight or nine level. Training in pre-vocational subjects with aim of high grade responses in attitudes and in good work habits are emphasized to prepare children for employment when they reach the age of 18.

Of two groups totalling 20 who have already left school in the last two years, 17 are gainfully employed or continuing as students elsewhere.

Academic classes follow the regular Alberta curriculum with vocational training when students reach the age of approximately 12 years. Girls are taught cooking, sewing, practical methods of setting tables and general homemaking. Typing and elementary office routine are also offered. Older girls attend beauty culture classes to teach them the proper way to achieve good grooming. Boys are introduced into industrial art with wood and metal working, electricity, draughting, graphic art courses and barbering. Other training is available in the kitchen, e.g.

baking; in the laundry and in housekeeping or caretaking.

Pupils reside at the school during the school year. A fullscale recreational programme takes up much of the children's spare time. Teams compete in basketball, hockey, softball and volley-ball in inter-school leagues, and swimming classes are also available. Physical education includes a gymnastic programme too.

In the first year at school a pupil receives special instruction in building language vocabulary through reading, speech reading and speech. Basic skills are introduced then, for example, printing and number concepts; sense training and socialization go hand in hand. The average deaf child has not had the opportunity to learn the many things a normal child will pick up because the sense of hearing directly or indirectly influences about 60 per cent of the learning or appreciation ability of an individual. By the second year in school, pupils of ability have shown capacities for learning at the grade one level; the weaker pupils have spent two years before readiness is adequate.

"Sign" language is not taught at the centre and the chief method of communication is by the oral method including writing. Teachers, however, adapt instructional methods to meet the needs of certain children who do not have aptitude for oral methods.

In addition to providing training facilities for Alberta's deaf children, the school has given specialist and university medical students the opportunity to study deafness. In co-operation with students and their families, a genetecist at the University of Alberta has undertaken a genetic study of the factor of heredity in deafness. Third year medical students at the University of Alberta attend lectures at the school each Monday of the university year. The future medical practitioners learn what to look for in examining children for deafness, and generally enhance their knowledge of the problems of the deaf child, as well as the local training facilities available for them.

FLYING TRAINING SUBSIDIES

With a view to maintaining a supply of young aviators as potential commercial pilots, the Department of Transport will continue for another year to pay flying training subsidies within a limited age category, Transport Minister George Hees has announced. The question of such subsidies has been under close study by the Department for some time. In the past, subsidies have been paid in the case of all students obtaining pilot licenses after undergoing the required training.

On and after March 31, 1960, a grant of \$100 will be paid to all persons completing an approved course of flying training and obtain-