

the Disarmament Conference, which meets regularly in Geneva.

Membership of the UN Security Council includes permanently Britain, the United States, France, the Soviet Union and China. By agreement, the non-permanent seats are held by three African nations, two Asian, two Western, two Latin American and one Eastern European. Each geographic area selects its own candidates.

### Canadian Opera Company mourns general director

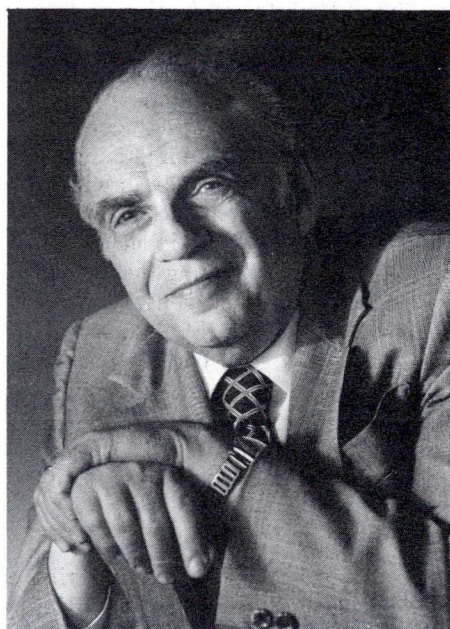
Herman Geiger-Torel, general director of the Canadian Opera Company (COC) died suddenly on October 8 on his way to deliver a lecture at the University of Toronto. The 69-year-old director was due to retire in December from the company he helped to found, and which he guided through 26 years of growth.

As well as being director of the COC, Dr. Geiger-Torel had a long association with the University of Toronto as a teacher of music and opera and, since 1928, he had been stage director of more than a dozen companies in Europe, Central and South America, the United States and Canada.

Geiger-Torel, born in Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, was the son of a distinguished lawyer; his mother was a well-known composer and pianist. He completed his studies at the Goethe University and Dr. Hoch's Conservatory of Music in Frankfurt and, from 1930 to 1937, he directed opera in leading houses in Europe. By 1938 he had moved to South America, where he continued to work with companies in Buenos Aires, Uruguay and Rio de Janeiro.

Dr. Geiger-Torel came to Canada at the invitation of Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music in 1948 to direct the newly-founded Opera School. In 1950, he was instrumental in the formation of the Canadian Opera Company, acting as its first stage director and producer.

In addition to furthering the careers of many distinguished Canadian artists, among them Jon Vickers, Teresa Stratas, Victor Braun, Don Garrard and Louis Quilico, Geiger-Torel succeeded in encouraging interest in many operatic works by several Canadian composers. He personally



Robert C. Ragsdale

Herman Geiger-Torel

staged 39 works for the COC. His last production, a new staging of *Die Walküre* for the 1976 season, was to have been the subject of his lecture at the University of Toronto.

Following the final curtain of the last performance of the Toronto season, October 16, the entire COC cast, crew, management and board of directors crowded the stage of the O'Keefe Centre to sing "Va Pensiero" from Verdi's *Nabucco* in special tribute to their late director.

### Port-aux-Basques ferry major facelift

On behalf of Transport Minister Otto Lang, External Affairs Minister Don Jamieson recently announced a major program to renovate and expand the ferry terminal complex at Port-aux-Basques, Newfoundland.

In an address to the Port-aux-Basques Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Jamieson said the \$15-million program included refurbishing the terminal building, which is 20 years old, installation of a loading bridge to replace the existing floating ramp and expansion of the parking area to accommodate 700 vehicles.

The new loading bridge, which will support all types of traffic including heavy trucks and railcars, will be designed for the addition of a second loading level if two-deck ferries come

into use in the future.

Two railcar carriers, three automobile ferries and several Newfoundland coastal service vessels use the facility, which is operated by CN Marine on behalf of the Federal Government.

The terminal, the main port of entry for goods and passengers to Newfoundland from mainland Canada, is used by some 300,000 passengers, 70,000 automobiles and 600,000 tons of cargo each year.

Mr. Jamieson said savings incurred elsewhere in east coast ferry services will help offset the cost of the Port-aux-Basques project. By eliminating unnecessary services and costs, Transport Canada expects to reduce this year's \$100-million ferry service budget by about 20 per cent.

### Canadians at UNESCO conference

Ambassador Yvon Beaulne, Canada's Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, is chairman of the Canadian delegation to the nineteenth General Conference of the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO), taking place in Nairobi, Kenya, from October 26 to November 30.

At this biennial general conference, representatives of 137 countries are considering the two-year and five-year program plans of UNESCO in education, the exact and natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, culture and communications.

Dr. L.H. Cragg, president of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and former president of Mount Allison University, is vice-chairman of the delegation, with members Gérard Barbin, Deputy Minister of Cultural Affairs, Quebec; Napoléon LeBlanc, Director, Continuing Education Services, Laval University; Miss M.L. Bayer Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Tourism of Manitoba.

Five alternate delegates are: Dr. J.M. Harrison, former Assistant Director General of UNESCO; J.W. Langford, Secretary of State Department; David Bartlett, Secretary-General, Canadian Commission for UNESCO; A.W.J. Robertson, Department of External Affairs; and G.A. Rau, High Commissioner of Canada, Nairobi, Kenya.