

IDRC grant for family-planning research in Mexico

A grant of \$287,100 to the National Nutrition Institute in Mexico City to support research into human reproduction and improved methods of fertility regulation at six centres in Central America was announced this month by Dr. W. David Hopper, President of the International Development Research Centre in Ottawa.

This collaborative research between units at the Nutrition Institute and four regional universities in Mexico and the University of Costa Rica will be linked to a world-wide program of research in human reproduction that has been launched by the World Health Organization in Geneva. The IDRC has already contributed \$232,000 to the WHO expanded program of research, but this will be its first contribution to a regional group.

At present, the largest amount of research into human reproduction and improved methods of fertility control is being carried out in Europe and North America. A major objective of the WHO program has been to designate clinical research centres in other parts of the world to expand research into methods that are most appropriate in those regions. The Institute in Mexico City is one of these designated centres.

As well as doing specific research into methods of fertility control, including new intrauterine devices and

improved hormonal compounds, the Central American group will work with governments and private organizations in developing clinical services and analysing the work of family-planning teams. It will also work with universities in expanding the training in medical schools and at post-doctoral levels in human reproduction, population and family planning.

The IDRC grant will cover the salary of a Latin American endocrine biochemist who is to set up a hormone reference laboratory service for the whole unit. It will also provide funds for a documentation and information centre at the Nutrition Institute to be a centralized source for all six centres, and travel funds to allow researchers from all the centres to meet regularly to review their program.

Dr. Carlos Gual, Chairman of the Department of Endocrinology at the Nutrition Institute, will be in charge of the collaborative research. All the other units are headed by post-doctoral graduates of the Institute, and it is hoped that Venezuela and Guatemala will join the network when post-doctoral students who are now studying in Mexico City return to their own countries.

The IDRC, created in Canada in 1970, supports research in science and technology for the specific needs of developing countries.

Budding lawyers work as temporary policemen

Justice Minister Otto Lang recently announced that financial assistance would be provided to the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police to launch a nation-wide program of hiring law students to serve on police forces during the summer months.

"This scheme will provide law students with an insight into police work of great value to them in their professional careers," said Mr. Lang. "They will come to understand the very difficult law enforcement problems faced by the police. And the police will gain a better appreciation of the thinking and attitudes of young people towards law enforcement. The heart of this program is the relation between law student and policeman which will

narrow the gap between the legal profession and youth and the police."

The Minister indicated that a program of this type had been operated by the Victoria Police Force in British Columbia for several years and that reports had been most favourable. It will now be extended this summer across the country through federal help.

"Chief Constable Gregory of the Victoria Police Force has been instrumental in the development of this program," said Mr. Lang. "I am happy to announce that he has been granted a leave of absence to take on the task of organizing the first nation-wide program. He will be communicating very soon with police forces and law schools."

Canadian team study tourism in Spain

A team of 11 tourism experts from Ontario left recently for Spain to find out how that country "does its thing" in the hospitality industries.

The tour is fourth in a series of fact-finding missions organized by the Ontario Ministry of Industry and Tourism — the previous ones were to Ireland, France, Austria and Mexico.

The group will visit six of the country's prime tourist regions in their two-week survey. The key centres to be studied include Madrid, Malaga, Grenada, Sevilla, Las Palmas and Tenerife.

Among more than a dozen major aspects of the tourism industry to be studied are: impact of governmental seed money in Spanish tourism; co-operation among governmental services and travel agencies in promoting tourism in Spain and foreign countries, and craft and souvenir industries.

Also to be investigated are such diverse areas of the travel business as staff-training methods, "package" tours and convention business.

New national wildlife area in Southern Ontario

The 1,450-acre Big Creek Marsh on Lake Erie, near Port Rowan, Ontario, has been purchased by the Federal Government in a continuing program to preserve wetlands for waterfowl, Jack Davis, Minister of the Environment, announced recently. The land was bought from the Toronto and Big Creek Shooting Club.

The marsh — a portion of the delta formed by Big Creek at the base of Long Point Peninsula — provides food and rest for thousands of ducks during spring and autumn migration. It is also a moulting area for ducks in the summer, and a well-known resting place for migrating whistling swans in spring.

A management plan will be developed by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and a federal-provincial committee, formed for this purpose, will consider recommendations on the use of the area from such interested groups as naturalists and hunters.