

CANADA AND CHINA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, announced in the House of Commons on February 10 that the Canadian Embassy in Stockholm had been instructed to get in touch with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to propose that talks concerning relations between the two countries be held at "a mutually convenient time and place in the near future". "I hope that before long we shall have a reply from the Chinese Government and that representatives of our two countries can then begin to discuss the question of recognition of the People's Republic of China and the exchange of embassies between Ottawa and Peking," Mr. Sharp observed.

"We also hope," he said, "to be able to take this opportunity to explore with Chinese officials the whole range of Sino-Canadian relations, and to discuss the possibilities for expanding and developing our relations in a number of areas." Even without diplomatic relations, Canada has developed trade, exchanged correspondents between Ottawa and Peking, and increased contacts between Canada and China in a number of fields in recent years.

There would be a number of questions for Canadian officials to discuss with the Chinese, Mr. Sharp said. It was not only a question of working out a satisfactory basis for recognition and the exchange of embassies, but of reaching agreement on a number of details relating to the operations of a Canadian embassy in Peking and a Chinese embassy in Ottawa.

RELIEF FOR NIGERIA

Food and medical supplies are being dispatched from Canada to the federal and secessionist areas of Nigeria. This shipment, assembled by the Federal Government in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Saint John, New Brunswick, was consigned to the International Committee of the Red Cross for distribution in both regions.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, said that the relief came from four sources. The Canadian Government supplied 2,000 tons of dried fish and 1,000 tons of potato granules. A further 100 tons of dried fish was supplied by CARE of Canada. The people and Government of Ontario gave 400 tons of hospital equipment and the Canadian Red Cross, through its Youth Department, two tons of drugs, medicaments, etc.

Fish was chosen, Mr. Sharp explained, because it was an excellent source of protein. The potato granules are an excellent source of carbohydrates. Both commodities meet current priority requirements as stated by the ICRC.

The relief is expected to be unloaded at Cotonou (Dahomey) and Lagos (Nigeria) between March 2 and 5.

The Canadian Government food supplies were

purchased with the \$1,600,000-grant for relief announced on November 26 by Mr. Sharp. This grant brought the total Government contribution to relief and transport activities close to \$3 million.

This is the second large shipment of food the Canadian Government has made. Last autumn, \$1-million worth of dry salt-fish was sent to both the federal and the secessionist areas. All of this food has been distributed to the needy of Nigeria. Earlier, Canada made a cash grant of \$60,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

All shipments were carefully arranged in consultation with the ICRC to insure that Canada was providing the most effective possible assistance.

OPENING UP THE NORTH

Geological operations in various provinces and the current "oil rush" in the Far North may establish a new record for investments in geological prospecting; the total amount of such investment in Canada at present is estimated at \$450 million.

A recent issue of *The Financial Post*, of Toronto, asserted that the very busy mineral exploration in Canada might open the way to the working of considerable mineral and oil fields. The Toronto paper pointed to three regions including (Val d'Or, Quebec) in Canada where intensive geological prospecting had taken place. *The Financial Post* maintains that the recent discovery of copper fields had given new impetus to exploratory operations in the Malartic-Bourlamaque district of Quebec.

The paper also indicated, by means of a map, the discovery of uranium fields in the Laurentian Mountains, base metals in the Ottawa Valley, and of copper and nickel in northwestern Quebec, near Ungava Bay and south of Hudson Strait.

Furthermore, according to *The Financial Post*, exploratory operations undertaken in Hudson Bay itself might lead to economic and industrial development of the first order. About 90 million acres, or two-thirds of Hudson Bay and its surrounding area, are covered by permits for oil prospecting.

The paper declares that 1969 will be particularly interesting for Canada in the area of mining and oil exploration operations.

VISITORS FROM NORWAY

Mr. O. Grieg Tidemand, Norway's Minister of Defence, visited Canada recently to attend a ceremony at Canadian Forces Base Gimli, Manitoba, marking the end of Canadian-Norwegian air-crew training.

Under the Nordic Air Training Programme, which officially terminated last June, the last four Norwegian pilots graduated during the wings parade ceremonies at Gimli on February 11.

The programme grew out of the NATO Aircrew Training Programme, which was instituted in 1950 as