

DIPLOMAT HEADS RCMP SECURITY

The Prime Minister has announced the appointment of Mr. John Kennett Starnes, who is at present Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, to be Director-General of Security and Intelligence in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, with the status of Deputy Commissioner. The appointment is effective January 1, 1970.



Mr. John Kennett Starnes

In announcing this decision, the Prime Minister recalled his statement in the House of Commons on June 26 on tabling the Report of the Royal Commission on Security:

"It is...the Government's intention, with the full understanding of the RCMP, to ensure that the Directorate of Security and Intelligence will grow and develop as a distinct and identifiable element within the basic structure of the Force, and will be more responsive, in its composition and character, to the national security requirements described by the Commissioners. The basic aim will be to develop the security service so as to draw on the Police services for personnel of suitable qualifications and character, and to retain administrative, research, documentation and other services in common with them. The security service, under the Commissioner of the RCMP, will be increasingly separate in structure and civilian in nature. New and more flexible policies in relation to recruiting, training, career planning and operations will be calculated to ensure that Canada's security service will be capable of dealing fairly and effectively with the new and complex security problems

which we shall undoubtedly face in the future, and also to ensure that it clearly reflects the nature of our cultural heritage. Under the new arrangements it will be possible, for example, for an increasing number of university graduates from all parts of Canada to join the Directorate in a civilian capacity and to aspire to positions at the top of that organization, thereby making the kind of contribution referred to by the Commissioners. Nothing in the proposed changes will unfairly prejudice the career expectations of people already in the service."

The Prime Minister said that the appointment of Mr. Starnes to the new position with the RCMP would be a major step in the achievement of these objectives.

Mr. Starnes, who is 51, joined the Department of External Affairs in 1944 as a member of the Canadian Legation to Allied Governments in London. He has served as Canadian Ambassador to Germany, to the United Arab Republic, and to the Sudan. He was for four years head of the security and intelligence liaison division of the Department, and has been Assistant Under-Secretary in charge of the general administration of the Department since November 1967.

CMHC INTEREST RATE INCREASED

H.W. Hignett, President of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, announced recently that the rate to be charged by the Corporation on direct loans for new and existing housing had increased to 9½ per cent effective September 15. The rate had been 9 per cent since January 1969.

In making the announcement Mr. Hignett said: "With the freeing of the interest-rate under the June 1969 amendments to the National Housing Act the CMHC interest rate was set at 9 per cent. While we have maintained our rate at 9 per cent we have noticed a gradual increase of the average interest rate of approved NHA lenders, which had risen to 9.61 per cent for the week ending September 5.

"It is our view that, as a residual NHA lender, CMHC should establish its lending rate of interest somewhat in line with that being charged by the approved lenders and this is what we are doing."

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

During the 1966-67 school year, almost 560,000 Canadians attended publicly-sponsored vocational classes on a full-time basis, an increase of almost 25 per cent over the figure for the preceding school-year. This large increase came during the final fiscal year during which the Technical and Vocational Training Assistance Act of 1960, involving financial agreements between the Federal Government and the provinces, was in effect.

Vocational students attending vocational, technical, composite and commercial high schools com-