

HOUSING CONFERENCE

Housing in Canada will be the object of a concerted probe at the Canadian Conference on Housing to be held in Toronto from October 20 to 23. The Canadian Welfare Council, which is sponsoring the conference, points out that this will be the first time that all interested groups - builders, consumers, mortgage lenders, architects, planners and representatives of all levels of government - have been brought together to consider every aspect of the housing problem.

A two-year programme of study and action leading up to the conference has been financed by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. In addition, CMHC will contribute \$65,000 to the cost of the conference. Funds are also being sought from business and industry and foundations, as well as from provincial governments. To date, seven provinces have promised support.

The 500 participants will consider Canada's housing needs under five heads: planning for housing, organization of housing programmes, the scope of housing assistance, the prospects for reducing housing costs, and housing and social development.

Part of the preliminary work of the conference, under Michael Wheeler of Ottawa, formerly of the United Nations Secretariat, has included development of provincial housing "profiles" by committees established in each province to prepare for the conference, stimulation of local interest, commissioning of background papers for distribution to participants before the conference, and the launching of a survey of the housing conditions of families on public assistance.

IRAQ FLOOD RELIEF

Emergency aid worth \$7,500 has been given by the Canadian Government for the relief of victims of recent flooding of the Euphrates River in Iraq. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, said that these funds would be provided through the Canadian Red Cross to the League of Red Cross Societies, which had launched an urgent world-wide appeal on behalf of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS TO PHILIPPINES

Canadian financing of \$2,646,000 to cover the sale by Northern Electric Company, Limited, Montreal, of telecommunications equipment and related services to the Philippines was announced recently by the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

The Export Credits Insurance Corporation, which administers the Canadian Government's long-term export-financing programme, has signed an agreement to finance the buyer, Republic Telephone Company, Inc., Pasig, Province of Rizal, Philippines.

Northern Electric obtained the contract against keen competition. The agreement involves the supply of crossbar exchange equipment, cable, station

equipment and materials for a total of 9,200 telephone lines, as well as supervision, installation, maintenance, and management training services.

This is the third sale of Canadian telecommunications equipment to the Philippines financed by ECIC.

The signing of this agreement brings the amount of ECIC long-term loans for export sales of capital equipment and related services to a total of \$404 million.

CANADA COUNCIL MUSIC GRANTS

A new symphony orchestra in the Maritimes is among the recipients of Canada Council grants to music announced recently. The Atlantic Symphony Orchestra of Halifax, receives \$115,000 for formation and operation in 1968-69 for a season of 32 weeks. The new orchestra, the outcome of a merger of the New Brunswick Symphony Society and the Halifax Symphony Society, will perform in all four Atlantic Provinces.

Grants for operations in the 1968-69 season also go to l'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (\$265,000 each); the Vancouver Symphony Society (\$160,000); the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (\$135,000); l'Orchestre Symphonique de Québec (\$125,000); Les Jeunesses Musicales du Canada (\$120,000); the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (\$50,000); the Victoria Symphony Society (\$20,000); and the Groupe de Rencontres Musicales, Montreal (\$10,000).

The Vancouver Opera Association receives \$70,000 for the 1968-69 season and for continuing its training workshop; and \$30,000 goes to the Edmonton Opera Association for the production of two operas and an opera-concert during the 1968-69 season. Two grants go to the McGill Chamber Orchestra: \$17,000 for the regular season in Montreal and \$3,000 to enable it to perform at the Saratoga Performing Arts Summer Festival. The Canadian Music Centre, Toronto, receives \$2,500 in support of the John Adaskin Project, designed to develop a repertory of contemporary Canadian music for classroom use. The Cassenti Players, a Vancouver chamber group, receives \$700 to perform at the Montreal CBC Festival this summer.

NATIONAL CONCERT BUREAU

An allocation of \$14,000 has been made for the creation of a national concert bureau, with headquarters at the University of Toronto. The bureau will assist a selected number of Canada's best young soloists by booking them for recitals across Canada and abroad. The University of Toronto has operated its own concert agency and placement bureau for some years.

The Canada Council grants are part of a programme of aid to music expected to amount to \$1,660,000 in the current year.

Despite the use of chemicals, the loss of crops in Canada because of weeds amounts to about \$300 million a year.