

## LANGUAGE TRAINING

Secretary of State Gérard Pelletier replied as follows on April 23 to questions in the House of Commons regarding the training of public servants in a second language, either English or French:

...The second-language training provided by the Public Service Commission is conducted at four levels. Level 1 is designed to provide minimum oral skills, while Level IV is expected to give students working proficiency in all four skill areas (reading, writing, speaking and oral comprehension).

Employees attend courses at succeeding levels until the skills needed by the duties of their positions have been acquired.

In the period from January 1964 to August 1968, the numbers of public servants who completed training courses were: Level IV, 703; Level III, 1,409; Level II, 2,267; Level I, 6,224.

During the same period, 1,176, public servants withdrew from training courses before completing the particular course in which they were enrolled. Many of these withdrew for reasons related to their duties or health; others withdrew because they had reached the level of proficiency required for their respective positions.

The Public Service Commission does not maintain records of the salaries of language students. However, on the basis of a significant sample, the Commission estimates that the average earnings of trainees is about \$1,100. On this basis, total earnings of those engaged as trainees over the four-and-a-half year period approximates \$12 million. However, trainees are not usually replaced while attending language courses and in that case there is no additional salary cost attributable to language training. In addition, each student on language training contributes about one hour of his own time for every two working hours he spends in language training. (See also Canadian Weekly Bulletin, Vol. 25, No. 25, dated June 19, 1968.)

## MORE FOREIGN AID URGED

Escott Reid, Principal of Glendon College, Toronto, a former senior Canadian diplomat and officer of the World Bank, has urged Canada to launch a crusade against the dangers facing mankind which arise out of the slow rate of economic growth of the hungry two-thirds of the world and the wide gap between China and the rest of the world.

Speaking in Hamilton, Ontario, on March 28, in a discussion on Canadian foreign policy, Mr. Reid said:

...Expenditures on defence and expenditures on aid for the economic development of poor countries are both deterrents. One is a deterrent against armed attack. The other is a deterrent against anarchy, the anarchy into which much of the poor two-thirds of the world may be plunged if there is not a substantial

speed-up in its rate of economic growth. Anarchy begets monsters – plague, pestilence, famine, war.

Canada now spends \$2,100 million a year on deterrence, \$1,800 million on deterrence against armed attack and \$300 million for deterrence against anarchy. Canada should increase its share of the burden of deterrence to \$3 billion a year, \$1 billion for defence, \$2 billion for foreign aid to deserving poor countries.

To reduce our expenditures on defence to \$1 billion a year will involve withdrawing and disbanding our armed forces which are now in Europe. It will not require us to leave the North Atlantic Alliance. We should remain in that Alliance.

A considerable part of our foreign aid should be channelled through international agencies such as the World Bank.

In the international agencies and in its own bilateral programme of foreign aid Canada should insist that foreign aid be given only to those poor countries which deserve it because they are making sustained and disciplined efforts to mobilize their own material and intellectual resources for investment in their own economic growth. This means that poor countries which want foreign aid must enforce much greater social obligations on people in all strata of their society from rich landowner and big industrialist to poor peasant.

By concentrating its efforts in world affairs on foreign aid, Canada would become one of the two or three leading nations of the world in the struggle against poverty and anarchy in the hungry two-thirds of the world. On the other great issue of the next 20 years, China, Canada, while not playing so important a role, could exercise considerable influence....

## “GREEN GABLES” AUTHOR SALUTED

The \$4-million ferry *Stena Danica*, purchased for summer service with the Prince Edward Island fleet, will be renamed the *Lucy Maud Montgomery*, in honour of the late author of the international classic *Anne of Green Gables*.

The author was born and lived most of her life on Prince Edward Island.

The popular novel, known throughout the English-speaking world and published in five other languages, has been adapted as a musical play that has been performed each summer at Charlottetown's Confederation Centre for the past five years. Besides touring Canada, *Anne of Green Gables* has played in a West End theatre in London, England. The Charlottetown cast will take it to Osaka for Expo 70.

The *Lucy Maud Montgomery*, which will be operated by Canadian National Railways, and will be able to carry 100 automobiles, is expected to begin operating in June. It will be the first of a series of new vessels and shore facilities for Prince Edward Island to carry the increasing number of summer visitors and to improve the flow of commerce.