

Palme d'Or for Canada at Cannes International Film Festival

The coveted Palme d'Or for the best short film shown at the Cannes International Film Festival was awarded this year to a National Film Board of Canada production *Balablock*. Directed by Bretislav Pojar, this seven-minute animated cartoon takes a light-hearted look at the problems of human conflict.

When the award was announced, a French critic remarked that it was "entirely appropriate", referring to Canada's long-standing pre-eminence in the field of animation and documentary shorts.

Although the National Film Board of Canada wins an average of 70 international film awards each year, the Palme d'Or had eluded it since 1955, when Norman McLaren's *Blinkity*

Blank won with a short subject drawn directly on film.

Last year at Cannes, the NFB won a special prize for originality with *Zikkaron*, an experimental film made by Laurent Coderre.

Bretislav Pojar, who had achieved fame with films in his native Czechoslovakia, came to work at the National Film Board of Canada in 1969. That same year his film *To See Or Not To See* won several important awards.

NFB collects two more awards

After winning a Grand Prix at the Cannes Festival, the NFB took two top prizes at this year's American Film Festival at New York the following week.

First prize Blue Ribbons were

awarded to the films *Nell and Fred*, a social documentary by Richard Todd, and *Here is Canada*, by Tony Ianzelo, (made for the Department of External Affairs) which won for public service.

NFB chairman and Canadian Government Film Commissioner Sydney Newman was in attendance to present the John Grierson Award, established by the NFB in honour of its late founder and "father" of the documentary. Martha Coolidge, a graduate of New York University received the award for *David Off and On*, a film on drug addiction. Miss Coolidge received her early training working for CFCF-TV in Montreal.

The festival was sponsored by the Educational Film Library Association. The Grierson Award was given by the National Film Board, Films Incorporated and the Visual Education Centre of Toronto.



National Film Board of Canada chairman Sydney Newman and scenes from Bretislav Pojar's *Balablock*, for which the NFB won the Cannes International Film Festival's Palm d'Or last month.

Queen Elizabeth to open Lester B. Pearson Building, new headquarters of the Department of External Affairs

The first edifice to gather under a single roof the entire headquarters staff of Canada's Department of External Affairs will be officially opened on August 1 by Queen Elizabeth II.

On her arrival at the Lester B. Pearson Building on Sussex Drive at 11.30 a.m., Her Majesty, who will be making her second visit to Canada during the current year, will be greeted by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, and the

Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. A.E. Ritchie, who is deputy minister of the Department. Mrs. Pearson and a number of other persons, including representatives of the Department of Public Works, the contractor who erected the building and the architectural firm responsible for its design, will be presented to the Queen. After paying tribute to the late Mr. Pearson, Her Majesty will declare the building open and will be

shown some of its special features. During the tour, a representative group of past and present employees of the Department of External Affairs will be presented to Her Majesty.

Since the Lester B. Pearson Building will not be completed at the time of its regal opening, the Department of External Affairs intends to hold an inaugural ceremony in the summer of 1974, during which a memorial to Mr. Pearson will be unveiled.