

PLEDGE TO UNRWA

The following statement was made recently by Mr. H. Yvon Beaulne, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, to the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the announcement of voluntary contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East:

The Government and people of Canada have the highest regard for the perseverance and dedication with which the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees has pursued its demanding task. Canada has provided support, through contributions in cash and kind, ever since the Agency began operations in 1950.

At the Pledging Conference last December, a Canadian contribution totalling \$1,200,000 for 1970 was pledged. Today, the Canadian delegation is pleased to announce that, subject to Parliamentary approval, Canada's contribution to UNRWA's budget for 1971 will be \$1,350,000. This will consist of \$650,000 (Cdn) in cash and \$700,000 (Cdn) in food commodities. This increase in Canada's regular contribution reflects the Canadian Government's continuing concern that the invaluable efforts of the Agency to relieve the plight of Palestine refugees should be sustained.

ETV ACQUIRES A RIVAL

Information Retrieval Television (IRTV), an experimental method of providing audio-visual programs instantly from a remote library, has won the enthusiastic support of a group of Ottawa teachers who have been using it for almost two years.

An interim report by Dr. G. Harry McLaughlin, Associate Professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) in Toronto, indicates that teachers see IRTV as an asset to education. They find it educationally effective and stimulating to both themselves and their students.

OISE, which is a co-sponsor of the experiment with Bell Canada, Bell-Northern Research and the Ottawa Board of Education, is evaluating the project.

The study among teachers who have been using the system since it was introduced in December 1968 shows that 94 per cent of them would like to continue using it beyond the experimental period, which ends in June 1971.

METHOD

The IRTV project was set up to assess the feasibility of "on-demand" information retrieval as an alternative to broadcast ETV, in which program scheduling is controlled by the broadcaster rather than the receiver. With IRTV, the teacher controls both program selection and scheduling. Teachers choose the program from a fully-indexed catalogue of films and videotapes, and telephone their request to

the library, indicating the time they wish to see it. The program is transmitted back to the classroom through a 12-channel video distribution system. Transmission can begin within one minute of a teacher's making a request.

Dr. McLaughlin's report on teacher attitudes towards IRTV will be incorporated into a final evaluation of the system which will be published by OISE after June 1971.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES

The decline in sales of new motor vehicles continued during October. At 79,584 vehicles, unit sales were 7.5 percent fewer than those sold in October 1969, and this year's January-to-October sales - 670,366 units - were fewer by 14.0 per cent.

Sales of North American passenger cars dropped to 51,797 - 14.8 percent fewer than those sold a year earlier.

However, 14,772 passenger cars manufactured overseas were sold, 17.8 percent more than the October 1969 figure. The January-to-October sales increased to 120,971 units, 16.5 percent more than in the same ten months of last year. Japanese cars accounted for almost all the increase, as sales of most European cars declined.

Only 77.8 per cent of the new cars sold in Canada in October were made in North America, compared to 82.9 per cent last year. Cumulative year-to-date total sales were 78.1 percent North American this year, compared to sales in 1969.

Although overseas commercial vehicles accounted for only 6.5 per cent of the Canadian market in units and 3.5 per cent in dollar value, their October unit sales were 74.7 percent more than those of a year earlier. Their sales through the first ten months of 1970 - 7,583 units - were 30 percent more than those sold in the same period of 1969.

North American commercial vehicle unit sales were fewer by only 1.0 per cent in October, at 12,000 units, but their January to October sales - 109,770 units - were still 14.7 percent fewer than those sold a year earlier.

INCO CUTS COPPER COSTS

The International Nickel Company of Canada has announced that, effective immediately, it is reducing the domestic price of its "ORC" copper to the equivalent in Canadian currency of 53 cents (U.S.) a pound. On the basis of the continuance of the current exchange rate, INCO's new price for the copper it markets in Canada is 54 cents (Cdn) a pound.

The 50-year-old Canadian Welfare Council recently received Federal Government approval for its new name - The Canadian Council on Social Development.