

MR. EBAN TO VISIT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, has announced that the Foreign Minister of Israel, Mr. Abba Eban, has accepted his invitation to visit Canada. The Foreign Minister plans to come to Ottawa about the middle of May.

Returning the visit by the Secretary of State for External Affairs to Israel last November, Mr. Eban will have an opportunity to review international issues of common interest, as well as bilateral relations.

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY

Canadians from coast to coast had a chance to see their local Ministry of Transport (formerly the Department of Transport) "weathermen" at work on March 23, when Canada, together with the members of the world meteorological community, observed the tenth World Meteorological Day.

To mark the occasion and focus public attention on the vital role of meteorology in the day-to-day life of Canadians, many weather offices held open house, with special displays illustrating the tasks they perform.

Canada has an extensive program of meteorological education and training organized under the Meteorological Branch of the Ministry of Transport. Included in this is the training of meteorologists to staff forecast offices and to provide the scientists who conduct continuing research into the mysteries of the atmosphere.

The training of technicians forms a large part of the Meteorological Branch program and results in the development of highly-qualified specialists in such fields as weather-radar operation, climatology, ice-observing and forecast-office technology. The branch co-ordinates its activities in the educational field with universities that offer graduate programs in atmospheric science. Many of the students enrolled in courses given under these programs are helped financially by the Ministry in obtaining their graduate degrees and eventually join the Meteorological Branch on a full-time basis.

As an active member of the World Meteorological

Organization, Canada has contributed to the education and technical training of personnel from other countries. Several students with financial assistance from the WMO or the International Development Agency have received such training at Canadian universities and with the Meteorological Branch. They have come from Ghana, Pakistan, Indonesia, Uganda, India and Ceylon.

FARMERS BACK TO SCHOOL

Farmers in the Peace River region of Alberta are being offered the opportunity to increase their incomes by studying improved husbandry and management on a three-year agricultural training program offered at the Alberta Agricultural and Vocational College at Fairview.

The course, which started last November, consists of four two-week sessions held at the College during the autumn and winter. Each course accommodates 20 farmers and each class takes two two-week sessions a year for three years, accumulating 420 hours of instruction on soils, crops, livestock and farm management.

Owing to the present grain and livestock situation special attention is being given to examining the possible alternatives to wheat production. The materials and teaching methods used in the course are designed to enable participants to analyze their own farm business in relation to current agricultural production and marketing trends.

To be eligible for one of these courses, a farmer must be 20 to 45 years of age, have several years of farming and be making his living at farming. He must show a potential for developing his skills and knowledge and for improving his farm operations.

The courses are designed to supplement and support the agricultural programs provided by the Extension and Colleges Division of the Alberta Department of Agriculture. The Canada Manpower Centers in the region provide the funds to cover full-time training allowances for the participants; teaching facilities and instruction are made available by the College, while the Alberta Department of Agriculture helps with the instruction and carries out follow-up work on participants' farms.