

AIR PIRACY

Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, made the following statement to members of the press, on September 8:

The Canadian Government and, I believe, the Canadian people are outraged by this latest massive outbreak of air piracy which has brought the lives of hundreds of innocent, non-involved people into acute danger and caused unnecessary suffering and distress.

Criminal acts of this kind which menace the security of air travel everywhere are of vital concern to Canada and a direct threat to the safety of Canadians who are among the world's most extensive travellers.

At a time of ceasefire when there is room for cautious hope for a resolution of the Middle Eastern conflict, these hijackings can only act as a further irritant to a situation already tense and difficult.

Canada is pursuing, as a matter of the utmost urgency, the search for a solution to the problems posed by air piracy and air sabotage. We are deeply involved in the initiatives taking place at the United Nations and particularly in ICAO, where we have been playing an active part. Effective international agreement to end these dangerous and cowardly acts is essential as is effective international co-operation to help the national governments involved to deal with criminal acts of this kind.

MANITOBA'S WILD RICE

Wild rice, a primitive and, up to now, uncultivated grain, is the only cereal crop that grows wild in Canada. First recognized for its high nutritional value by the Indians, explorers and pioneers, wild rice is today regarded as a delicacy. Its growing popularity and demand in many market areas has increased the price of the grain significantly. The result has been the development of a small but successful industry in Eastern Manitoba, providing employment for the local native population of the area.

Two miles south of PR313 lies a 1,260-acre shallow lake, called Lac du Bois, where one of the largest single wild rice beds in Manitoba has operated for more than 50 years under the name of Williams Wild Rice Farm. Five to six hundred acres of high-quality wild rice are harvested annually and processed in a mill on this property. To date, harvesting has been a combination of hand-picking followed by a mechanical harvester clean-up.

PIONEER COMPANY

This wild rice company has had to overcome many obstacles since its inception in 1915, when all phases of the operation were done by hand. Better processing and harvesting methods were accomplished with the development of mechanized equipment.

In the 1940s, the average crop was 45,000 pounds of green rice. By reseeding and a measure of water control, the average annual crop rose to 83,000 pounds by the 1960s. In 1963, when railway service to this area was abandoned, Williams Wild Rice Farm built its own private four-mile road to PR313. The processing plant was rebuilt and a diesel electric system installed.

In 1969, as a result of a water-shed engineering study, 1,200 cubic yards of bedrock and clay were removed from the Lac du Bois outlet. When completed, this water-control project should bring an additional 100 acres into regular production for the 1970s.

The company, now reorganized under the name of Du Bois Wild Rice Ltd., has joined with other Manitoba producers to form Wild Rice Developments Ltd. This firm will undertake a pilot project this year for the paddy production of wild rice. It is intended that this new development will stabilize the supply of Canadian wild rice, and enable Manitoba to retain and expand its present export markets.

VISITORS FROM GHANA AND TURKEY

Prime Minister K.A. Busia of Ghana and Foreign Minister Ihsan Sabri Caglayangil of Turkey will shortly pay official visits to Canada.

Dr. Busia will visit Ottawa and southwestern Ontario from November 8 to 13. This visit will contribute to the continuance of the close friendly relations that now exist between Ottawa and Accra.

Mr. Caglayangil will spend two days in Ottawa from September 28 to 30, during which he will discuss bilateral and multilateral matters of common interest with government officials. This will be the first time the Turkish Foreign Minister has made such a visit to Canada.

CHOLERA VACCINE FOR WHO

Canada is contributing vaccine valued at \$50,000 to the World Health Organization's campaign to control the present widespread outbreak of cholera in the Middle East and North Africa.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, announced recently that the contribution would be made immediately through the Canadian International Development Agency in response to an emergency appeal received by the Minister of National Health and Welfare from the Director-General of the WHO.

The Canadian contribution will purchase about 300,000 doses of vaccine from Connaught Medical Research Laboratories of Toronto, and will also cover the cost of transportation to affected areas in the developing countries where local resources are not equipped to combat this new threat to public health.