

## Canada supports protection of war victims — Geneva Convention

The Canadian Ambassador to Switzerland recently signed two Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 relating to the protection of victims of armed conflict. These Protocols were adopted by a diplomatic conference convened as a result of an initiative of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Canadian delegation to the conference, which held four sessions in Geneva from 1974 to 1977, played an active role in the negotiation of both Protocols.

Protocol I deals with the protection of victims of international armed conflict. The Geneva Conventions of 1949 afford protection to sick and wounded members of the armed forces, to prisoners of war and to the civilian population. Recent efforts now provide protection of non-defended localities, of the environment and of food and water supplies. There are also special provisions on reunion of families, protection of journalists and measures in favour of women and children.

For the first time, under Protocol II, international law has established standards for the treatment of victims of internal conflict (civil war). Such protection had previously been available only in situations of traditional types of war between states.

## Canadian heads international expositions agency

Patrick Reid, Director General of the Bureau of Public Affairs of the Department of External Affairs, was elected President of the International Bureau of Expositions at its annual meeting in Paris on December 14.

The Bureau, whose headquarters are in Paris, has a membership of 37 nations. Under an international convention established in 1928, it regulates the frequency and conduct of all world expositions, such as Expo '67, Montreal.

Mr. Reid, whose term of office will be for two years, is the first non-European president in the Bureau's 50-year history. He was proposed by the delegation of the U.S.S.R., seconded by United States and elected unanimously. He has been Canada's Commissioner General at seven world expositions — an international record — and has been the chairman of the steering committee of participants at two



Patrick Reid

of them, Expo '70 Osaka and Expo '74 Spokane.

Mr. Reid will continue his duties as Director General of Public Affairs during his tenure as president of this international organization.

## Pensions, allowances rise

The basic Old Age Security pension rises this month to \$153.44 from \$150.43.

The new monthly total at the single rate for persons receiving both the basic Old Age Security pension and maximum Guaranteed Income Supplement will be \$261.06.

For a married couple, both pensioners, the combination of the basic pension and maximum supplement will provide a payment of \$498 for the couple monthly.

The Spouse's Allowance, paid to persons between 60 and 65 years of age who are married to Old Age Security pensioners and meet residence requirements, will increase to \$249.00, from \$244.12.

## Family allowances

Also effective this month, the Federal Government monthly allowance paid for children under 18 will rise to \$25.68 from \$23.89 in most provinces and in the territories.

The amount and method of payment of Family Allowances varies in Quebec and Alberta. Under a provision in the Family Allowances Act, a provincial government may ask the Federal Government to vary the rates according to the age or number of children in a family,

providing the payments average \$25.68. Quebec and Alberta have again chosen this option.

Special Allowances, which are paid to foster parents, welfare agencies, government departments and institutions maintaining children, will also increase to \$25.68 from \$23.89.

Each month during 1977 the Federal Government paid more than \$173 million in Family Allowances to 3.6 million families. The cheques covered 7.2 million children. The national average allowance for each recipient family was about \$49.

## Make-work program

Robert Andras, President of the Treasury Board, announced on December 15, that 15 departments will participate in the \$150-million Federal Labour Intensive Projects (FLIP) program, which will generate 157,000 man-months of employment.

The program, now under way, ends September 30, 1978, and will be made up of projects undertaken by federal departments and agencies through employment of individuals, as well as by contracts with private industry for roughly \$30 million of the total.

Mr. Andras said: "The departmental proposals we approved met the following criteria: they had a high labour content, were from areas of high unemployment, and had a direct relationship to the programs of the department."

The breakdown of fund allocation, by province, is: Quebec, \$53.2 million; Ontario, \$40.6 million; British Columbia, \$20.9 million; New Brunswick, \$9.3 million; Nova Scotia, \$9.3 million; Newfoundland, \$7.9 million; Manitoba, \$3.9 million; Alberta, \$3.0 million; Saskatchewan, \$1.8 million; Prince Edward Island, \$1.0 million; Northwest Territories, \$170,000; Yukon, \$55,000. The amount allocated to each province was calculated on the numbers and percentage of unemployed persons.

Mr. Andras emphasized that the resources being allocated to FLIP are in addition to the \$458 million previously provided for the 1977-78 Employment Strategy, which includes major direct job-creation programs such as Canada Works and Young Canada Works, summer programs for students, expanded training opportunities and other employment-related activities.