

NATO aimen forgather

Aircrews from seven nations, including Canada, will gather at the Twenthe air-base in the Netherlands in late April and early May as Allied Air Forces Central Europe (AAFCE) conducts its 1976 tactical-weapons meet. The Twenthe air-base is located near the city of Enschede, in the extreme eastern part of the Netherlands.

The AAFCE tactical-weapons meet is a biennial competition testing the level of proficiency in tactical fighter-bomber operations attained by the air forces assigned to NATO's Central European region. The gathering also encourages the exchange of information and techniques among participating units, the improvement of air-combat tactics and procedures by a symposium of national views and experiences, and mutual understanding and co-operation in general.

The meet is organized as a practical test of AAFCE's two Allied Tactical Air Forces. It is not a competition between nations. Aircrews from Belgium, Britain, Germany and the Netherlands will form a team representing the Second Allied Tactical Air Force. They will compete for the title of meet champion against a team from the Fourth Allied Tactical Air Force, composed of fliers from Canada, Germany and the United States.

A team from the French Air Force will participate as guests in the 1976 tactical-weapons meet.

The 1976 meet opens officially on April 30. Competition flying, which is to begin on May 3, will feature a variety of air tactics, including bombing, rocketry and strafing.

The meet ends May 14 with the presentation of awards to the winning teams by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands.

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Curnoe represents Canada at Venice Biennale

Greg Curnoe of London, Ontario, has been chosen by the National Gallery of Canada to represent Canada in the thirty-seventh international Venice Biennale art exhibition, to be held from early June until the end of October of this year. The 1976 Venice Biennale will be the twelfth at which Canada has been represented.

Pierre Théberge, the Gallery's Curator of Contemporary Canadian Art, who is responsible for organizing the exhibition and making a selection of Curnoe's paintings, says that the work of this artist "should be known internationally, for it shows a sense of time and place that is truly Canadian in its good-natured lack of pretension".

Eight of Curnoe's paintings will be displayed, each a view from a different window in the artist's London studio. One is a monumental work 16 feet long, entitled *View of Victoria Hospital, Second Series*, in oil, latex and mixed media on plywood, with marking ink, iron mesh, wallpaper, loud-speakers and a tape player, accompanied by a printed text, from the permanent col-

lection of the National Gallery. Others belong to private collections and to the Canada Council Art Bank.

A multiple talent

Curnoe's activity is not confined to sculpture and painting. He organized the first Canadian "Happening" in 1961, co-founded the seven-member Nihilist Spasm Band in his home-town in 1965 (he invented an instrument, a sort of kazoo, for this group), and has edited his own magazine. He is also co-founder of the Association for the Documentation of Neglected Aspects of Culture in Canada. He versifies, gives lectures and makes films.

He was represented in 1968 at two international group exhibitions — *Canada: art d'aujourd'hui*, organized by the National Gallery of Canada and exhibited in Paris, Rome, Lausanne and Brussels, and the *Canada 101* exhibition sponsored by the Canada Council at the Edinburgh International Festival. He was one of three Canadian artists whose works were displayed at the Saõ Paolo Biennial of 1969.

Influence of communications

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information and decision-making. There must be long-term development efforts, expanded social-support services, and greater co-ordination among different policy fields.

For example, we should remember that, if people feel threatened by change, they will strike out in defence of their interests. If people see immigrants taking jobs while there is still high unemployment, we should not be surprised if the subtleties of labour supply and demand are ignored. So governments have a duty in this area to ensure a greater consistency in our employment, immigration and social development policies. Otherwise, we shall give some Canadians excuses for blaming newcomers for their problems. We must not unwittingly provide scapegoats for society's frustrations.

So my commitment to supporting minorities remains firm. I see our role as one of seeding ideas, facilitating new approaches, animating others.

But, along with this policy, we must

all do our best to avoid situations of confrontation in which a minority group is in the position of giving ultimatums to society. Governments in particular have a responsibility to see that there is an atmosphere, a framework, in which different points of view can be aimed in a spirit of mutual tolerance and understanding. For the future, I should hope that we shall be no less vigorous in supporting the opportunities for minorities to communicate. Progress has evidently been achieved, but where our performance might improve is in the area of helping the majority to understand the requirements of a pluralist society and of preparing the way for a less hostile reception of minority viewpoints.

Ultimately, the right to conceive a dissenting message and make it known, the right to self-determination and self-realization — these things are at the roots of a democratic, pluralist society. If our history and current state tell us anything, it is that communication in a pluralist society is not only possible — it is essential.