

## CANADA-CHINA AIR PACT DISCUSSIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, and the Minister of Transport, Mr. Don Jamieson, announced recently that a Canadian delegation would go to Peking the week of May 15 to initiate discussions directed toward the conclusion of a bilateral air agreement with the People's Republic of China.

The possibility of establishing a direct air-link between Canada and China was discussed by Premier Chou En-lai and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, during the Minister's trip to China last year.

## SOCIAL SECURITY PACT WITH GERMANY

Ratification of a social security agreement between Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany was announced on April 24 by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. John Munro. The exchange of instruments of ratification for the Convention, which was signed at Ottawa in March 1971, occurred in Bonn on March 30, 1972, and as a result the agreement entered into force on May 1, 1972.

The Convention provides that, subject to certain conditions, German pensions can be paid in Canada to Canadians as well as to German citizens eligible for them.

"Reciprocal social security understandings of various design," said the Minister, "exist between Canada and a number of other countries including Britain and France. However, we consider this Convention an important advance in securing for Canadians of German origin the social security rights they earned before coming to Canada."

"Under this agreement, many Canadian citizens of German origin will for the first time be able to enjoy benefits they earned under German social security schemes before they came to Canada," Mr. Munro stated. "Canadian programs involved include the Canada Pension Plan, the Old Age Security Plan and the Quebec Pension Plan. Eligible Canadians living abroad have been receiving payment under these three plans for some time."

## OLD NEW-CAR TRICKS

The Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has distributed a report suggesting that federal and provincial authorities exercise firmer control and updating practices used by some automobile manufacturers and distributors.

The report followed an extensive investigation carried out by the Department as a result of complaints by consumers that many buyers of new cars found their vehicles to be older than they were represented to be. The report has been distributed

to government authorities at all levels, and to appropriate private and trade organizations.

The majority of complaints involved foreign automobiles, because model changes on imports are less easily identified. Most provinces now permit manufacturers and distributors to update their models one year; thus a model actually manufactured in the 1971 calendar year may be designated 1972. Reports have indicated instances in which models have been updated two, and even three, years.

The departmental report recommends that provincial licencing authorities require registration forms to show the actual month and year of manufacture.

Regulations under the Motor Vehicle Safety Act, in effect since January 1971, stipulate that all imported automobiles must have a compliance plate affixed to them on the post of the right front door. The month and year of manufacture are marked on this plate.

The Ministry of Transport has been asked to consider giving the requirements wide publicity.

Fines of up to \$200,000 are provided for breaches of the Act and regulations.

"As far as my Department is concerned," Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister Robert Andras commented, "we will notify the Ministry of Transport of any suspected irregularities with vehicle compliance plates that come to our attention. We will also investigate any cases of alleged misleading advertising dealing with supposed current models and take court action if necessary."

## NRC STUDENT AWARDS

The National Research Council of Canada has announced the award of 1,921 postgraduate scholarships and 165 postdoctorate fellowships for 1972-73 worth a total value of about \$9.5 million. All the former have a value of \$3,800 for 12 months. The latter are valued at \$7,400 for single and married fellows and \$8,600 for married fellows with children, for 12 months.

Of the 1,921 scholarships awarded, 1,867 are for graduate work at Canadian universities and 54 for graduate work at universities abroad. Of the 165 postdoctorate fellowships awarded, 97 are for work in Canada and 68 are tenable in other countries.

## POPULATION AND MOTHER TONGUE

The 1971 census counted 21,568,311 people living in Canada on June 1, an increase of 7.8 per cent since the previous census in 1966. About half - 47.8 per cent - of the increase occurred in Ontario; British Columbia accounted for 20.0 per cent, Quebec 15.9 per cent and Alberta 10.6 per cent.

Although Canada has continued to grow, the na-