

PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS

Mr. Paul T. Hellyer, the Minister responsible to Parliament for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, has announced that approval has been given since February 1, to 48 public housing projects involving federal contributions and loans totalling \$25.3 million. These projects, some of which have been subjected to further review as a result of recommendations by the Task Force on Housing and Urban Development, consist of 2,123 units located across Canada, which are intended for low-income families and elderly occupants.

The recent report of the Task Force expressed reservations about the environmental effects on tenants living in very large, high-rise public housing units in the urban centres. "The ultra-large projects," Mr. Hellyer said, "give rise to many problems in day-to-day living for the tenant families. We intend to pursue the in-depth study of the economic, social and psychological issues of public housing as recommended by the Task Force. Meanwhile, projects similar to those announced today will receive favourable consideration. Such projects, of acceptable size, location, design and layout, provide an address for each tenant, playground space for children and greater privacy for every member of the family."

Approval has also been given to co-operative housing loans totalling some \$2 million and covering 276 dwelling units in Nova Scotia.

RACIAL HARMONY APPEAL

Canadians were urged to observe March 21, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, by contributing to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and the UN Consolidated Educational and Training Programme for southern Africans.

In a joint statement, Mr. Gérard Pelletier, Secretary of State of Canada, and Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, asked the people of Canada to show their determination to honour the intent of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through voluntary contributions to these programmes and through support for the principle that all peoples should live in harmony, dignity and equality with one another.

The text of the statement is as follows:

"The Canadian Government believes that the observance of this International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination will remind Canadians that, although much has been accomplished toward the elimination of racial discrimination, much remains to be done.

"The United Nations has been responsible for a large measure of progress made in the world toward mutual respect and understanding between peoples and nations. Canada has played its part in the further-

ance of this work of the United Nations.

"In 1968, the International Year for Human Rights, the Government of Canada, in co-operation with voluntary organizations and agencies, helped to bring to a meaningful conclusion a Canadian conference which took place in Ottawa in December. As evidence of its commitment in this field the Federal Government assigned to the Human Rights Division of the Secretary of State Department the responsibility of implementing a large-scale educational programme to promote human rights in Canada and of serving as the central point of reference for the Government's domestic interests in human rights.

"Earlier in the year, at the International Conference on Human Rights sponsored by the United Nations at Tehran, the Canadian delegation secured the adoption of its resolution that governments encourage the development of comprehensive legal aid systems for the protection and maintenance of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

"In accordance with the great humanitarian objectives of the United Nations Charter and the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Canadians must live in harmony, dignity and equality with one another and contribute to the development and strengthening of individual rights and basic freedoms for all peoples of the world.

"Let us rededicate ourselves to the cause of racial equality in our hearts and by our generosity. We urge all the people of Canada to observe the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination through their voluntary contributions to the UN Trust Funds for South Africa and the UN Consolidated Educational and Training Programme for southern Africans."

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS DOWN

Motor-vehicle accidents in Canada claimed 370 lives during December, a decline of 21.3 per cent from the 1967 December total of 470. The regional death toll, with the 1967 figure in brackets, was as follows: Newfoundland, 8 (10); Prince Edward Island, 1 (2); Nova Scotia, 20 (36); New Brunswick, 15 (21); Quebec, 97 (119); Ontario, 146 (146); Manitoba, 8 (17); Saskatchewan, 12 (45); Alberta, 22 (31); British Columbia, 41 (42); and the Yukon and Northwest Territories, nil(1).

The preliminary annual figure for the 1968 death toll is 4,375 - 3.5 percent less than the total of 4,535 for 1967.

The regional annual 1968 death toll was: Newfoundland, 73 (82); Prince Edward Island, 38 (29); Nova Scotia, 237 (255); New Brunswick, 230 (240); Quebec, 1,663 (1,622); Ontario, 1,586 (1,719); Manitoba, 196 (202); Saskatchewan, 264 (287); Alberta, 382 (426); British Columbia, 574 (559); and the Yukon and Northwest Territories, 11 (8).