

CARIBBEAN AID PROGRAMME

Canada's five-year plan of economic assistance to Barbados, the Leeward and Windward Islands and British Honduras was announced on March 9 by Mr. Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Beginning next year, aid will be at a minimum annual level of \$5 million, reflecting the increase pledged by Canada at the time of the Commonwealth Caribbean-Canada Conference in July 1966. The Canadian programme will consist largely of capital projects and technical assistance in aviation, water development, education and agriculture. It is based, in part, on the report of the recent tripartite survey of the Eastern Caribbean, conducted under aid programmes by economists from Canada, Britain and the United States. They emphasized the need for a regional approach to development.

NATURE OF ASSISTANCE

Air Transport: Studies to identify the areas of highest priority for airport improvement within a regional context are now being carried out. Most of the urgent requirements are expected to be met within the next few years and a minimum of \$1 million a year will be made available for this purpose.

Water: External assistance of about \$1 million a year will be earmarked to assist in providing a more adequate water supply in the smaller islands. In co-operation with the Pan-American Health Organization, Canadian advisers will study a number of islands on the basis of which a variety of water-development projects will be initiated. Since 1962, Canada has contributed \$1,200,000 to this area of development.

Education: The construction of three schools in the area is now under discussion. Canada has already provided four schools in the Eastern Caribbean at a total cost of \$1.5 million.

Agriculture: An allocation of \$200,000 a year is planned, largely for the provision of Canadian experts and the training of students in Canada. Consideration will be given to the supply of agricultural equipment, fertilizer needs or livestock.

Mr. Martin also announced the commitments of \$3 million under the 1966-67 programme to Barbados, the dependent territories of the Eastern Caribbean and British Honduras. Of this sum, 1,375,000 will be devoted to technical assistance and \$1,275,000 will be set aside for the investigation and development of suitable regional projects and the implementation of smaller projects in the individual islands. An allocation of \$350,000 has been made to the construction of the Belize Bridge in British Honduras.

CENTENARY SALUTE FROM OAS

The Third Special Inter-American Conference of the Organization of American States has paid a tribute to Canada on its centenary.

The Conference, which met recently in Buenos Aires, unanimously approved the following resolution:

"Whereas Canada will celebrate this year the first centennial of the signing of the Act which established the Canadian Confederation; and

Canada occupies an outstanding position among the nations of the Western Hemisphere because of its high cultural level, its accelerated agricultural and industrial development, the stability of its democratic institutions, and the cordiality of its relationships with the other American states,

The Third Inter-American Special Conference resolves:

- (1) To salute the noble Canadian nation, and extend, through the Government thereof, congratulations on the occasion of the first centennial of the Act of Confederation which that country will celebrate in the course of the present year.
- (2) To pay a special tribute of admiration to the people of Canada for their valuable contribution to the peace and progress of the Hemisphere and of the world."

Canada was represented at the Conference by an observer delegation, headed by its Ambassador in Buenos Aires, Mr. Jean Bruchési.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

Mr. Paul Martin, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, sent a message of appreciation to the foreign ministers of the countries of the Organization of American States on behalf of the Government and people of Canada, in which he expressed thanks for the "generous and friendly tribute" paid to Canada on its centenary by the Third Special Inter-American Conference of the OAS.

POSTAGE RATES GOING UP

Interim adjustments to a number of postage rates, effective June 1 and October 1, 1967, were announced on March 13 by Postmaster General Jean-Pierre Côté. He pointed out that the changes would not affect first-class mail but added that, as the study of postage rates continued, other adjustments would be necessary to steady the whole structure.

Mr. Côté explained that the interim increases were the result of the rising labour and operating costs and the expansion of the postal service required to meet today's needs. Though it was estimated that these adjustments would yield an additional \$13 million in revenue in the fiscal year 1967-68, the Postmaster General added that this would be insufficient to meet current costs, and that further adjustments would be required.

PARCEL POST

For domestic parcel post there will be a minimum fee of 15 cents for parcels up to 8 ounces in weight and 30 cents for parcels weighing from 8 ounces to 1 pound. Postage rates for parcels weighing more than 1 pound will be charged according to the zone destination. Other refinements in the parcel post rate structure will be a reduction from the present 9 rate zones to 5. The fee changes and zone modifications will go into effect on October 1.