

NEW IMMIGRATION INQUIRY

Prime Minister Pearson announced on February 1 that a further inquiry into immigration procedures would be conducted by Mr. Joseph Sedgwick, Q.C. The new inquiry is to deal with discretionary powers conferred by legislation on the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Mr. Pearson said that, in the Government's view, the most difficult questions in immigration policy concern the extent and use of such powers.

Mr. Sedgwick is the distinguished Toronto counsel who was appointed last June to inquire into various Immigration Department matters, including procedures in the arrest, deportation and prosecution of persons who entered Canada, or remained, illegally.

SUBJECTS OF STUDY

The Prime Minister has asked Mr. Sedgwick to give advice on the following questions:

- (1) whether the present degree of ministerial discretion is necessary;
- (2) whether, in the light of experience, the exercise of discretion may be subject to pressures;
- (3) whether it is practicable and reasonable to alter the degree of discretionary power or the way in which it is exercised;
- (4) whether there is any alternative that might provide a more satisfactory method of reaching decisions on difficult individual immigration cases.

The Prime Minister also asked for Mr. Sedgwick's advice on the basis and operation of the Immigration Appeal Board, as a part of the review of all such tribunals announced on December 31, 1964.

DEFENCE RESEARCH SHIP

The first oceanographic survey ship to be built for the Department of National Defence will be accepted in a ceremony to be held on March 9 at Yarrows Limited, Victoria, British Columbia. The "Endeavour", to be manned as a Canadian Naval Auxiliary Vessel based at Esquimalt, B.C., is actually the fourth ocean-going maritime research vessel designed and built in Canada, though the first constructed for the Defence Department.

Scientists from the Pacific Naval Laboratory of the Defence Research Board of Canada, the Pacific Oceanographic Group, the University of British Columbia's Institute of Oceanography and the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys will use the new ship. Facilities for research in underwater acoustics, geomagnetics, submarine geology, and physical, chemical and biological oceanography will be provided aboard the "Endeavour".

The hull configuration is designed to give the best sea-keeping characteristics in the shortest length. The length of the "Endeavour" is 236 feet one inch overall. She displaces 1,560 tons, has a bulbous bow to reduce pitching, a transom stern and a fairly high rise of floor-plate, with considerable flare above the load water-line. She has flume tanks to reduce roll and thus increase useful research time while at sea.

ROYAL ASSENT TO MAPLE LEAF FLAG

At 5:00 p.m. GMT, January 28, at Buckingham Palace, Queen Elizabeth II signed the proclamation of the new Canadian flag in the presence of Prime Minister L.B. Pearson. The proclamation, which becomes effective February 15, bears the signatures of the Prime Minister and the Attorney-General of Canada.

Her Majesty's signature was advised by an Order-in-Council approved in Ottawa, text of which follows:

WHEREAS the Senate by resolution dated December 17, 1964, has recommended that there be designated as the National Flag of Canada, the flag hereinafter described;

AND WHEREAS the House of Commons, on December 15, 1964, did concur in the recommendation made on October 29, 1964, by a Special Committee thereof, that the flag hereinafter described be designated as the National Flag of Canada;

AND WHEREAS the choice of a flag for Canada is properly of concern to Her Majesty as Queen of Canada and should be made only with her Majesty's personal approval;

THEREFORE, His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, is pleased to advise Her Majesty the Queen that a proclamation, to have effect upon, from and after February 15, 1965, to which Her Majesty may be graciously pleased to affix Her signature, do issue under the Great Seal of Canada, designating as the National Flag of Canada a red flag of the proportions two by length and one by width, containing in its centre a white square the width of the flag, bearing a single red maple leaf or, in heraldic terms, described as gules on a Canadian pale argent a maple leaf of the first.

BRITISH UNITS TO CANADA

Two British infantry battalions, a squadron of Royal Engineers and a number of tank crews will train in Canada during 1965, it was announced recently by the Canadian and British Governments. This is an increase of one infantry battalion over recent years.

Joining Canadian troops at Camp Wainwright, Alberta, from June 14 to July 28 will be the 1st Battalion, Sherwood Foresters. Another infantry unit, to be selected later, will train at Camp Gagetown, New Brunswick, from June 18 to July 31.

Accompanying the Sherwood Foresters will be tank crews of the 16/5th Lancers, with a squadron of Royal Engineers following the other infantry battalion into Camp Gagetown from July 30 to September 11.

During the period January-February 1965, other British Army units will take winter training at Camp Shilo, Manitoba, and Camp Wainwright, Alberta. As already announced, a battery of Royal Artillery is to train at Camp Shilo during February and March 1965, with a company of Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers taking part in exercises at Camp Wainwright during the same period.