

RCMP INSIGNIA STAYS

Prime Minister Trudeau recently announced that the program to replace the Royal Canadian Mounted Police insignia on buildings and patrol cars had been halted. This decision had been taken, he stated, in response to the many representations made to him and to the Solicitor General, Mr. Jean-Pierre Goyer.

"The high stature enjoyed by the RCMP in Canada and throughout the world is a matter of pride to all Canadians," the Prime Minister said. "The Government is determined not to permit any issue to detract from that prestige. The dislike of the new signs by Canadians - Western Canadians in particular - has been communicated to us clearly. And we have listened."

"We are quite willing to stop the present replacement program. The Government has never had any intention or desire to change the name of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. It will not introduce any insignia which does not make use of that full name and which does not emphasize the national character of the force."

The Prime Minister recalled that the original decision to introduce a new insignia design was taken by the Commissioner of the RCMP in an attempt to ensure quick, simple identification. The design was introduced first in New Brunswick in 1968, where it attracted no unfavourable public reaction. Wider installation of the new signs began in June 1971. They are now in use in a number of Canadian communities.

WAR RECORDS MADE PUBLIC

The minutes of Cabinet and of the Cabinet War Committee for the period from the beginning of 1942 to the end of the Second World War have been turned over to the Dominion Archivist to be made available for public examination.

In making this announcement, Prime Minister Trudeau said the decision was an exception to the policy announced in 1969 of making Government documents public after 30 years. Under this policy, minutes of the Cabinet War Committee were released a few months ago covering the period to the end of 1941. "Since the beginning of this year, the Governments of the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia have decided to make available their records for all the war years," the Prime Minister said. "Because our war policy discussions and military, economic and other measures were so closely interrelated, the British and American documents will include much material of interest to Canada and may often refer to Canadian policies and actions."

"It would clearly be undesirable for the press, the academic community and other interested parties

in Canada not to have equal access to material of such great historic interest," Mr. Trudeau added. "In this situation, although the original intention had been to adhere strictly to the 30-year rule for Cabinet records, I feel that there is no reasonable justification for withholding our war records from immediate public examination."

He said he had informed the Leader of the Opposition and former Prime Ministers that this exception to the 30-year rule was being made for the war years only. Apart from this specific exception, the 30-year rule would continue to apply to Cabinet Committee minutes and documents.

INVESTMENT PACT WITH ISRAEL

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, has announced that the Government has concluded an agreement with the Government of Israel on the insurance of new Canadian investments in Israel against certain non-commercial risks.

The agreement was concluded with an exchange of notes between the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Ambassador for Israel to Canada, Dr. Theodor Meron.

This pact, which is expected to make a useful contribution to the development of economic relations between the two countries, is one of a number of foreign investment insurance agreements the Canadian Government hopes to conclude with other countries. Similar agreements have already been concluded with Barbados, Jamaica, Malaysia, Singapore and St. Lucia.

These instruments will facilitate the operation of the Government's Foreign Investment Insurance Program, established with the enactment of the Export Development Act in 1969. The purpose of this Program, which is administered by the Export Development Corporation, is to promote investments in other countries by Canadian nationals, whether individuals or corporations.

WHEAT MARKET COMPETITION

Commenting recently on a news report that Canada and the United States would not compete with each other in wheat markets, Mr. Otto Lang, the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, called the report "incorrect".

Canada and the U.S., he pointed out, were both seeking to expand their exports of grain and grain products, despite Canada's current record level of grain sales.

Mr. Lang also reiterated that both countries supported the principle of the orderly marketing of grain in the interest of the importer and exporter nations.