INTERNATIONAL ESSAY WINNERS

Eight Canadian high-school students have received an international award for essays on modern aviation sponsored by the International Civil Aviation Organization, which has its headquarters in Montreal. The winners were among thousands who took part in the first such competition, aimed at familiarizing high-school pupils with the importance of world civil aviation. Students were invited to write essays about 2,000 words long, which were judged for knowledge, accuracy and style.

Among the Canadian students were four award-of-honour winners: Helen Baribeau, Nicholas Legrady, Monique Miron and Carole Néron. Winners of merit awards were: Manuela Banfi, Normande Côté, Gisèle Dumais and Manon Verrier.

The awards were presented by Mr. Walter Binaghi, President of the ICAO Council, and Mr. Bernard T.Twigt, Secretary-General of the Organization. The winners of honour awards were flown to New York and accommodated there through the courtesy of Eastern Airlines and the New York Hilton Hotel. While in New York, the students were received by officials of the United Nations.

The annual ICAO student essay competition is available to secondary schools throughout the world, with ICAO providing award certificates and insignia pins to a prescribed number of students in each country. The International Civil Aviation Organization has 116 member nations and is a Specialized Agency of the United Nations. The Organization continually seeks to establish standards for safe, efficient and economical international air travel.

QUARTERLY TRADE

In March, Canada's total exports rose by 19.4 per cent from $1,015.8 million last year to $1,212.7 million, largely through increases in sales to the United States, which rose from $709.9 million to $884.0, an increase of 24.5 per cent. Exports to Britain also rose by 9.1 per cent to $91.2 million, but those to other Commonwealth and preferential countries fell by 12.9 per cent to $42.7 million. Exports to other countries increased by 12.4 per cent to $194.8 million.

Imports in March gained 22.6 per cent, or more than $200 million, to $1,106.2 million. Again the largest increase was in trade with the United States, where imports rose by 23.4 per cent from $680.3 to $839.6 million. The percentage increase in imports was even larger at 24.4 per cent to $64.3 million. Imports from other Commonwealth and preferential countries were virtually unchanged from those of March last year at $26.2 million, and imports from other countries rose by 22.3 per cent to $176.1 million.

The net result was that the merchandise trade surplus declined slightly in March from $113.3 million in 1968 to $106.5 million this year.

In the first quarter of 1969, exports rose by 15.1 per cent from $3,008.8 million in 1968 to $3,463.7 million this year. By far the largest part of this increase was accounted for by the growth in sales to the United States, which rose by $422.4 million to $2,477.2 million. Exports to Britain declined by 4.7 per cent to $282.8 million, while those to other Commonwealth and preferential countries rose slightly to $135.1 million. Exports to other countries rose by 8.2 per cent to $568.7 million.

Imports in the first three months increased by 16.2 per cent from $2,810.0 million in 1968 to $3,265.5 million. Purchases from Britain rose by 9.2 per cent to $173.5 million, and from other Commonwealth and preferential countries by 21.3 per cent to $94.0 million. Imports from the U.S. rose by 16.6 per cent to $2,487.5 million, and from other countries by 15.8 per cent to $510.5 million.

The total effect was that the trade surplus in the first quarter of 1969 was virtually unchanged from last year's at $198.2 million. The deficit with the United States declined from $77.8 million in 1968 to $10.3 million this year, while the surplus with Britain also declined, from $137.8 million in 1968 to $109.3 million. Also, in the month of March and in the first three months of 1969 imports have been increasing at a slightly faster rate than exports.