

LOAN TO THAILAND

Mr. Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and officials of the Government of Thailand have signed a \$1-million development-loan agreement under which Canadian equipment will be supplied to a number of comprehensive schools in Thailand. This is part of a programme under which the External Aid Office is providing a combination of capital equipment and technical aid to help develop education in Thailand.

Present at the signing ceremony in the Commonwealth Room of the House of Commons were Mr. Bunchana Atthakor, Deputy Minister of National Development for Thailand, and Mr. Sanan Sumitra, Director-General of the Thai Secondary Education Department.

The interest-free loan will enable the Thai Government to equip a new school and complete the conversion of 20 schools in various parts of the country from academic to comprehensive institutions, in which academic and vocational subjects are taught as a combined course.

USE OF EQUIPMENT

The equipment will be used in teaching wood and metal work, power mechanics, typing, graphic arts and ceramics: The new academic-vocational curriculum is aimed at students now in the academic stream who do not wish to go on to university. Approximately 70 per cent of the students are now dropping out of the academic schools at the end of Grade 10. The new course will provide them with an alternative Grade 12 education with a general technical background fitting them for further on-the-job training. Graduates will fill the heavy demand for middle-level manpower.

Mr. Martin said that the development of the comprehensive school system, through Thai-Canadian Colombo Plan partnership, was an excellent example of how integrated aid, combining capital and technical assistance, could be effectively applied to a strategic development need.

INCO'S GIFT TO MONTREAL

A sculpture entitled "Man" was presented by its sponsors, The International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited, to the City of Montreal at a ceremony at Expo '67 on May 17. The stabile was turned over to Montreal Mayor Jean Drapeau by Albert P. Gagnebin, President of International Nickel, at Expo's Place International Nickel.

The largest work of the internationally-known sculptor Alexander Calder, the stabile is composed of 103 stainless steel sheets, 3,280 feet of stainless strip and 4,000 stainless steel bolts. It is 67 feet high, 94 feet long and weighs about 46 tons. It took some 32,000 tons to make at the firm of Ets Biemont of Tours in France.

In presenting the stabile to Mr. Drapeau, Mr. Gagnebin offered the good wishes of International

Nickel for the continued success and distinction of Montreal.

Mr. Gagnebin pointed out that the Statue of Liberty was also created in France. "It is perhaps significant that, though almost a century separates these two stables, both are located at continental gateways and both represent an interpretation of mankind, his humanity, his freedom, his search for that which is good and fine in life," he said.

Mr. Gagnebin paid tribute to Expo and the men who made it possible. "Certainly it is a very great source of pride for all Canadians, but particularly for Mayor Jean Drapeau who was bold enough to seize upon the idea of holding this great exhibition on these islands, and for those who - led by Ambassador Pierre Dupuy - were wise enough to control its quality and capable enough to build it in record time," said Mr. Gagnebin. "It is, and will continue to be, a great credit to Canada and to these Canadians who showed such uncommon enterprise and courage in doing what sceptics said was impossible."

MACDONALD HOME RE-OPENED

Bellevue House, Kingston, Ontario, once the home of the man who was to become Canada's first Prime Minister, was opened to the public on May 24 by the Minister of National Revenue, Mr. E.J. Benson. The old home, which was bought in 1964 by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, was restored by the Canadian Historic Sites Division to its appearance during the years 1845 to 1850.

A lavish Italianate villa, originally owned by Charles Hales, a prosperous Kingston grocer, it was one of the first houses of its kind in Canada. It was built during the years immediately following the choice of Kingston in 1841 as the capital of the newly-formed Province of Canada, when the influx of legislators and government officials caused property values to soar and businesses to flourish. When the boom ended in 1844, with the removal of the government from Kingston, Hales rented his villa. It was occupied in 1848 by John A. Macdonald, a local lawyer and rising politician.

To re-create the appearance of Bellevue House as it was during its early years, it was refurnished in the Regency style. Some items were purchased in Britain, but most of the early Canadian pieces were obtained locally.

GRAPHIC DISPLAYS

Two rooms not required for the re-creation of the interior as it was during Macdonald's occupancy have been set aside for graphic museum displays. One, on the ground-floor, will tell the story of the house in three stages - the original construction, the various occupants, the reconstruction. The second display will trace the career of its most illustrious tenant - from schoolboy to young lawyer and rising politician to Old Chief.