

PAKISTAN FLOOD RELIEF

Canada is sending \$3,540,000 in emergency aid to Pakistan in response to a crisis caused by one of the worst floods in the country's history. The announcement was made recently by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp.

The major portion, \$3.5 million, will be in the form of food aid to replenish wheat stocks used to feed those affected by the floods. This is in addition to Canada's 1970-71 regular food aid allocation of \$4 million, which is being provided immediately to Pakistan.

The remaining \$40,000 of Canadian aid will be made as a cash grant through the Canadian Red Cross Society for flood relief. The Society has already despatched to the League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva its own donation of \$8,500 to Pakistan and \$3,500 to Nepal, which was also affected by the floods. Canada has also agreed to make a cash grant of \$10,000 through the Canadian Red Cross for relief in Nepal.

The devastating floods in East Pakistan this year have covered 5,000 square miles of land in 14 districts, affecting some 7 million people. Nearly 100,000 houses have been washed away and 300,000 acres of standing crops and seedlings and 30,000 acres of jute have been damaged.



A quarantine on chrysanthemum plants and cuttings is keeping white rust, a fast-spreading fungus infection of these plants, out of Canada.

Imported chrysanthemums must be quarantined for 60 days by the Plant Protection Division of the Canada Department of Agriculture before they can be released for commercial production.

AIR PACT WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

An air transport agreement between Canada and Trinidad and Tobago was signed recently in Port-of-Spain by Mr. G.A. Rau, Canadian High Commissioner, and Mr. F.C. Prevatt, Minister of External Affairs for Trinidad and Tobago.

The agreement provides for the operation on a regular basis of scheduled air services between Canada and Trinidad and Tobago through intermediate points in the Eastern Caribbean. The designated carriers for each country will be Air Canada and British West Indies Airlines.

This pact, the first to be signed with a Commonwealth Caribbean country, will formalize routes which have been served by Air Canada and by BWIA since May 1969, and will lead to the further development of mutually beneficial and important economic and commercial relations between the two countries.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES STUDIED

The role of community health centres in meeting health requirements in Canada will be examined as part of the continuing program to introduce cost-reducing recommendations of the task forces on health. The announcement was made recently by Mr. John Munro, Minister of National Health and Welfare, in reporting on the activities of the steering committee on health-care costs.

Agreement to establish a working party to carry out the detailed study of the development and role of community health centres was reached at the July meeting of the health costs steering committee. Areas to be examined include administration, consumer participation, medical staff relationship, services, financing and other related matters.

The federal-provincial steering committee will ask health authorities and representatives of agencies, as well as consumers, to serve on the study group to provide the necessary information and opinions on the community health centres.

At the same meeting discussions were also held with Dr. Gaston Rodrigue, Dr. B.L.P. Brosseau, Dr. W.R. Slatkoff and Mr. E.L. Casey representing the Canadian Hospital Association.

Members of the steering committee and the CHA representatives reviewed areas of mutual concern in connection with the CHA's brief on the task forces' recommendations and have scheduled a second meeting to review ways and means of implementation of the recommendations to restrain costs in hospitals.

The steering committee has received briefs from the Canadian Medical Association, the Canadian Hospital Association and preliminary comments from the Canadian Nurses' Association, as well as briefs from a number of interested associations and private individuals. The committee will meet with association representatives and others at the monthly meetings.