

CANADA-TURKEY TELEPHONE CONTRACT

A \$36-million contract signed by R.C. Smythe for the Northern Electric Company and representatives of the General Directorate of Post, Telephone and Telegraph Administration of Turkey will assure work for 400 NE employees for the next five years in Shearer, Lachine and Bramalea, Quebec.

This is the second five-year plan of the Turkish administration, and the big contract represents the 30 per cent of production costs Turkey will import from Canada. Northern Telekomunikasyon A.S. in Turkey will do the manufacturing required to hook up 300,000 new subscriber telephone connections. It is hoped that Turkish business will double by the end of this contract.

CHINA BUYS TOO

Northern Electric has also received their first order from the People's Republic of China — a multiplex carrier system to be installed at the satellite earth station in Shanghai. This earth station, working as a part of the Intelsat system, is designed to carry communications traffic in the trans-Pacific link.

The electronic "send-receive" equipment of the Intelsat IV satellite, which operates in conjunction with the Shanghai station, was also manufactured by NE. This satellite is located in space above the Pacific Ocean.

PARCEL RATES TO RISE

In March 1973, the Post Office will revamp its fourth-class mail-rate structure, reducing prices in some cases and raising them in others. Price reductions will be widespread as the Department is seeking to gain business from volume mailers of large parcels. In that connection, the parcel-weight limit will be increased officially from 25 to 35 pounds.

The main feature of the new structure is the creation of "local zones" extending anywhere from 150 to 175 miles round each post-office. Parcels posted within these new zones (to be superimposed on the existing provincial boundary zones) will cost less than at present. Local zones will cross provincial boundaries and may vary according to the trading area.

CONSIDERABLE SAVINGS

Local-zone savings will range from five to 50 cents, the amount growing as parcel weight increases.

A 15- to 20-pound parcel now costs \$2.30 to post. Under the local-zone arrangement, the same parcel would cost \$1.80. The difference for a five-pound parcel will be from the present 95 cents to 90 cents.

For the most part, rate increase will apply on parcels of less than ten pounds travelling beyond the "local zones".

This is the first rate increase since 1970 and it is lower than the past two increases.

For those who pay more, the Department expects to be able to offer better service, as tests will be conducted to determine areas of improvement.

MR. SHARP'S VISIT TO CHINA

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The Prime Minister specially welcomed the development of trade between Canada and China, hoping he said, that it would continue to increase. He reiterated China's intention to consider Canada first as a source of wheat and he indicated that Canada could count on China as a long-term customer. He showed a keen interest in the Canadian trade exposition that was about to open in Peking and he thought this would be of considerable benefit in developing trade between the two countries. He also looked forward to the conclusion of an air agreement that would greatly improve and facilitate contacts between Canada and China.

During the talks Mr. Chou En-lai spoke warmly of the Canadian surgeon Norman Bethune, whom all China held in high regard, and he noted with pleasure the Canadian Government's decision to honour his memory in Canada.

Other subjects discussed ranged from the world situation, security issues and disarmament, particularly in the UN context, other UN questions, economic development patterns, trade, pollution and bilateral relations.

OPENING OF TRADE FAIR

After visiting the memorial erected at Shihchiachuang, by the Chinese Government in honour of Dr. Bethune, the Canadian party toured some of the historic and cultural sites in the vicinity of Peking.

On August 21, Mr. Sharp officially opened the Canadian Government Trade Exposition, which continued in the ancient capital until September 2. More than 200 Canadian industrial firms exhibited at this trade fair, the biggest in Canada's history, to which Premier Chou En-lai, accompanied by Vice-Premier Li Hsien-Nien and other officials, made a two-hour visit. They were received by the Canadian Ambassador, Mr. Ralph Collins, and the general director of the fair, Mr. L.J. Rodger.

Following his stay in Peking, Mr. Sharp and his party went to Shanghai and Hangchow, where they visited, among other places, a bicycle factory and several department stores. After buying a record of Chairman Mao's essay on Dr. Bethune, Mr. Sharp tried out a piano in the music section of No. 1 Department Store, playing, to the delight of an enthusiastic crowd, some music by Mozart.

The Canadians left from Canton for Hong Kong on August 24, returning to Canada the following day.