

### Canada's contribution to UNRWA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, announced on May 21 that a cheque for \$1,150,000 comprising the largest part of Canada's contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) had been handed over to the United Nations. Canada's total contribution for the financial year 1974-75 will amount to \$2,050,000, of which \$900,000 will be provided in flour and the balance in cash. Since UNRWA began its relief, health and education programs in 1950, the Canadian Government has contributed over \$30 million, an amount which ranks Canada as the third largest contributor to the fund.

### National petroleum company

The Federal Government hopes to establish a national petroleum corporation with an authorized capital of \$500 million and with provisions for the Government to guarantee up to \$1-billion worth of securities issued by the company. The corporation will be known as Petrocan and will have a 15-member board of directors. The \$500-million authorized capital will be divided into 100 common shares, each worth \$5 million and with provision "for the Minister of Finance to subscribe for same with payments out of the consolidated revenue fund". There is also provision for the authorized capital to be increased. The legislation will make provision for Petrocan to buy any part of the capital stock of Panarctic Oils Ltd, now held by the Government.

### Steel prices inquiry

The Prime Minister announced on May 22 the appointment of Justice Willard Z. Estey of the Ontario Court of Appeals as a Commissioner of Inquiry to inquire into and report on recent price increases for steel products.

Justice Estey is asked to inquire into price increases put into effect on May 15 by the Steel Company of Canada and any other increases that may be announced by other primary iron and steel producers.

He is asked to report on whether producers of primary iron and steel are exacting profit margins that are greater than they would customarily obtain, and whether producers are withholding abnormally large inventories from market in order to realize abnormal profit margins.

The Prime Minister noted that earlier last month he had asked Alastair Gillespie, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, to meet with the president of the Steel Company of Canada, Peter Gordon, following the company's announcement of planned price increases for some of its products. At that meeting on May 13, Mr. Gillespie asked Mr. Gordon to defer the price increases pending the findings of an inquiry but the company would not agree to do so.

The Prime Minister said that if Justice Estey's report indicated there had been profiteering, it would be the intention of a Liberal Government to ask Parliament to pass legislation that would empower the government to roll back prices.

### Film on consular assistance

The Department of External Affairs has just released a film entitled *In Distress* concerning consular assistance for Canadians abroad.

The safety and welfare of Canadian citizens travelling or living out of the country, is a concern of the Department's consular offices, which provide help to Canadians who encounter difficulties. There are over two million valid Canadian passports in circulation, and it is expected that another half million will be issued this year.

This year, when tens of thousands of Canadians are travelling abroad, some will encounter difficulties because of passports or money lost or stolen, because of sickness or injury, or for some other reason. Consular officers in Canadian embassies, high commissions and consulates abroad are there to help them in these difficulties. Sometimes family and friends have urgent need to contact Canadians travelling abroad and if such travellers register with offices abroad they can be located more quickly in such emergencies.

*In Distress* is now available as a public service for showing on television and to audiences in schools, social

groups and theatres. The situations it describes are actual and involve real people; its message is straightforward and simple — "When you are in distress abroad help is available, but don't put yourself beyond help!" The Department hopes that as many Canadians as possible will see the film before they embark on their travels.

### Agricultural manpower and workers from abroad

Canadians will have priority this year over foreign temporary workers who supplement the agricultural labour force, Manpower and Immigration Minister Robert Andras stated recently.

"However, when Canadian workers are not available, second choice will be given to those workers who are part of organized and approved movements such as the Caribbean seasonal workers program," said Mr. Andras.

"As a third choice, and only as a last resort, we will allow individual foreign workers with the proper employment visas to take work in cases where neither Canadian workers nor workers from the approved movements are available," the Minister declared.

"These workers will be subject to the same working conditions as apply to the Caribbean program."

Special arrangements with countries traditionally supplying seasonal agricultural workers will assure Canadian employers of seasonal farm workers when Canadians are not available. These programs, which offer a labour supply that is virtually unlimited, can respond quickly to sudden changes in labour market demand. Workers can be transferred readily between employers subscribing to the program as demand dictates. The programs also provide safeguards preventing foreign temporary workers from being employed under unacceptable conditions.

"The movement of foreign temporary workers to Canada for the harvesting of farm crops will be closely controlled this summer," said Mr. Andras. "This will be done to avoid disruptive effects on the orderly management of national agricultural manpower programs in the 1974 harvest season."

"We will also do our utmost to protect those foreign seasonal workers, who are admitted into Canada, from