

WHEAT PACT WITH BULGARIA

Mr. Robert Winters, Minister of Trade and Commerce, on behalf of the Canadian Government, signed on April 26 a renewal of the trade agreement with the People's Republic of Bulgaria providing for a three-year extension of the most-favoured-nation treatment between the two countries and for further sales of Canadian wheat.

Bulgaria is to purchase a minimum of 7.4 million bushels of wheat during the next three years, with an option on a further 3.7 million bushels subject to the Wheat Board's ability to supply. The basic quantity, with the additional option, represents about \$24-million worth of trade at current prices. Purchases of wheat under the present agreement will be facilitated by credit arrangements extended under the Export Credits Insurance Act, providing for payment over three years. During the three-year period of the previous agreement, Canada was able to provide 17.1 million bushels, to help meet the short supply situation in Bulgaria in 1964.

TRADE EXPANSION FORESEEN

The agreement was signed for Bulgaria by Mr. Dimitar Kostov, chairman of the trade delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. It includes an exchange of letters between Canada and Bulgaria expressing the interest of both in expanding and diversifying their mutual trade. Bulgaria has undertaken to give first consideration to Canada as a competitive source of supply for a number of goods other than wheat. The Bulgarian letter also indicates that it should be possible for Bulgaria to expand its exports to Canada.

In order to facilitate the understandings discussed above, Canada and Bulgaria have agreed that representatives of the two governments will meet on a regular basis to review the progress of trade in both directions.

FLOOD RELIEF FOR ITALY

A total of 860 Holstein-Friesian dairy cattle, worth \$550,000, are being shipped from Canada to Italy this month to replenish stock that drowned or had to be slaughtered after disastrous floods that inundated a third of the country last autumn. Italy lost 150,000 cattle in the floods, the worst peacetime disaster of its history.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, said recently that 630 cattle, worth \$400,000, were being sent by the Government of Canada. Another 230, valued at \$150,000, are being provided by the Canadian Flood Relief for Italy organization.

The herd will double in size shortly after arrival, since each of the heifers is "in-calf".

The pure-bred cattle have been purchased from Canadian farmers in almost every part of the country for assembly in the Montreal stockyards. The majority are from Ontario and Quebec, which have the largest

number of Holstein farms. Others are from Western Canada, particularly British Columbia and Alberta and from the Maritimes.

The animals will be shipped to Italy aboard the M/S Ceres and will be landed at Cenon. There, they will be received by the Italian Department of Agriculture and kept for two weeks in seven provincial centres.

The Italian Government will distribute the cattle to individual farmers in herds of up to eight. The farms are in the flood-stricken provinces of Treviso, Venezia, Padova, Udine, Firenze, Pisa and Grosseto. Cattle could not be shipped into these areas before May because the pastures, barns and feed would not have been ready for them. The Holstein breed has been established in these areas for many years.

The \$400,000-External Aid contribution is part of the \$500,000 donation of the Canadian Government to help Italy recover from the floods. The remainder will be spent restoring art treasures.

RESIDENT EMBASSY IN BANGKOK

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, has announced that, within the next few months, the Canadian Government intends to establish a resident mission in Bangkok, Thailand, and to appoint a resident Ambassador.

Canada and Thailand established diplomatic relations in 1961 and Mr. B.C. Butler is at present Canadian Ambassador to Thailand, resident in Kuala Lumpur. Mr. Butler will continue in this capacity until the resident embassy has been opened and a new ambassador is appointed.

Canadian relations with Thailand have been close for a number of years. Besides a common interest in the establishment of conditions of peace and stability in Southeast Asia, both countries are members of the Colombo Plan, and the Canadian aid programme in Thailand is expected to amount to \$1.3 million this year. Canadian exports to Thailand have increased from \$1.3 million in 1958 to \$5.6 million in 1965 and a further expansion of trade exchanges between the two countries can be expected.

CANADA FIRST AT EXPO '70

Canada was the first country to officially announce its intention to participate in Expo '70, to be held from March to September in Osaka, Japan. The official ground-breaking ceremonies took place last month. This international exhibition is expected to attract about 30 million visitors - about the same target as has been set for Canada's Expo '67 in Montreal.
