

Japanese scientists visit

Continuing co-operation between Canadian and Japanese science and technological experts was agreed upon last month during a visit of six officials from five Japanese government organizations, led by Mr. Shun Yasuo, Science Councillor of the Japanese Science and Technology Agency. The mission included members of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and the Environment Agency. A similar visit to Japan by a Canadian group headed by A.W. Gillespie, then the federal science minister, was made in March 1972.

In Ottawa, the group held discussions with scientists in various government departments and visited the National Research Council and the Canadian Centre for Remote Sensing. They reviewed Canadian scientific activities in certain areas and defined the subject matter of mutual interest in an effort to promote bilateral scientific and technological exchanges.

After a stay in the capital for a few days the guests travelled to Toronto, Montreal, Burlington and Victoria, where they visited such establishments as the Pickering Nuclear Reactor, the Canadian Centre for Inland Waters, Burlington in Ontario, the Transportation Development Agency and the CN Research Centre in Montreal and the Victoria Marine Science Directorate of the Department of the Environment in British Columbia. The group also paid an unscheduled sightseeing visit to the Ontario Science Centre.

Canada/Venezuela trade

The *modus vivendi* covering trade between Canada and Venezuela was renewed on November 20 through an exchange of notes by Alastair Gillespie, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Ambassador Jesus Carbonell Izquierdo of Venezuela.

The pact, first signed in 1941 and renewed annually, guarantees most-favoured-nation tariff treatment for the goods of both countries.

In conjunction with the renewal of the bilateral agreement, informal discussions were held between Canadian and

Venezuelan officials with a view to broadening the base of trade between the two countries. Venezuela, which ranks fifth among Canada's trading partners was last year Canada's largest market and supplier in Latin America. Canadian exports to Venezuela in 1972 amounted to \$145 million — a record — while imports from Venezuela reached \$410 million, the bulk of which was in petroleum and petroleum products.

About 50 per cent of Canadian shipments to Venezuela consists of automotive products. Venezuela has also been a traditional market for Canadian newsprint, woodpulp and a wide variety of other industrial equipment and materials.

Christmas stamps

For the tenth consecutive year the Canada Post Office has marked the Christmas season with a special issue of stamps.

The new 6-, 8-, 10- and 15-cent issues, which went on sale on November 7, depict four aspects of the Christmas spirit. The skate on the 6-cent issue symbolizes recreational activities; the bird on the 8-cent stamp represents the dove of peace; Santa Claus on the 10-cent stamp symbolizes the joy of giving; and the shepherd on the 15-cent issue depicts the Nativity two thousand years ago.



Enlarged Canadian contingent in the Middle East

Canada has increased the size of its contingent in the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in the Middle East.

In response to the request of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Canadian Defence Minister James Richardson announced on November 23 that Canada would provide an aviation unit, a supply company, a maintenance company, a movement control unit, a postal detachment, a military police detachment and a Canadian national administrative unit. A Canadian communications unit, already in the Middle East, will continue to provide field communications for the UNEF.

Other logistics support for the multinational force are provided by Poland. These comprise engineer, medical and road transport units, including a maintenance element.

Fifty-nine vehicles and 14 trailers, along with several tons of stores, including hygiene and sanitation equipment, were added to the 126 Canadian vehicles and 57 trailers already with the force in the Middle East.

Roles to be performed by the Canadians involve the receiving, storing, issuing and accounting of all UNEF supply items, including spare parts, radios, vehicles, food, furniture, construction materials and clothing.

Comédie-Française to tour Canada

The Comédie-Française, the national theatre of France, will tour six Canadian cities beginning in February for six weeks, under the auspices of the Touring Office of the Canada Council.

For their fourth visit to Canada, the Comédie-Française will bring four productions: *Le malade imaginaire* (Molière); *On ne saurait penser à tout* (Muset); *La station Champbaudet* (Labiche et Marc Michel); and *Mais n'te promène donc pas toute nue* (Feydeau).

The Comédie-Française (originally a combination of Molière's troupe and the troupe of the Hotel de Bourgogne, the most ancient Paris company, was organized in 1680 by decree of Louis XIV. The Comédie has been the