

NES TRAINS VIETNAM OFFICIALS

The Minister of Labour, Mr. Starr, on behalf of the Federal Government, recently welcomed three officials of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam who are in Canada to undergo a programme of training and instruction under the provisions of the Colombo Plan, with a view to operating a state employment service in Vietnam modelled on Canada's National Employment Service.

The visitors are: Le Minh Doan, 26, Provincial Labour Inspector, Gocong, Vietnam; Nguyen Van-Tu, 25, Bienhoa, Vietnam, and Tran Van-Dau, 25, Binh-Duong, Vietnam, both Provincial Assistant Controllers of Labour in their own country.

They will be studying the National Employment Service of the Unemployment Insurance Commission from now until August 26, with particular attention to the principles and methods used in organization of employment services, in surveying employment and unemployment, in classification of occupations, and placement of workers.

The course consists of ten days' preliminary training at the NES head office in Ottawa, followed by four months' training in the Commission's Quebec regional office in Montreal and in selected local offices of the NES in the Province of Quebec, concluding with ten days' final training at head office in Ottawa.

HUGE THERMAL ELECTRIC PLANT

Sinews of steel weave an arresting pattern against the sky as the first stage of construction proceeds at the site of Ontario Hydro's Lakeview Generating Station, immediately west of Toronto. This stage involves the erection of some 6,700 tons of structural steel to build the framework over the first two units.

Destined to become one of the world's largest thermal-electric plants, the Lakeview project is taking shape on a 128-acre site on the shore of Lake Ontario in Toronto Township. By 1964, at an estimated cost of \$250 million, it will have a capacity of 1,800,000 kilowatts -- equal to the estimated potential of all remaining hydro-electric sites in the province considered capable of economic development.

Present plans call for completion of the first 300,000-kw generator by 1961 and another in 1962. The first two steam-turbo generators for the plant were ordered in 1957. On December 24 last, Ontario announced the award of a contract valued at approximately \$8.8 million to Associated Electrical Industries of Canada Limited for two additional 300,000-kw units scheduled to come into operation in 1963 and 1964.

A substantial portion of these units will be manufactured in Canada by the General Electric Company at Peterborough under an arrange-

ment between that company and the Canadian subsidiary of Associated Electrical Industries in the United Kingdom.

While larger units are under development in both the United Kingdom and the United States, these units will be comparable to the largest now in service anywhere in the world, and will involve a wide variety of manufacturing skills and plant facilities.

The placing of this order marks the second step in the development of Canadian manufacturing capacity in the important field of power system steam turbo-generators. In 1958 an order for a 100,000-kilowatt turbo-generator for the Hydro Electric Power Commission's Thunder Bay plant was undertaken by the John Inglis Company for partial manufacture in its Scarborough plant.

INCOME SECURITY IN FACTORIES

To what extent is the Canadian worker protected against the loss of part or all of his income through provisions made by his employer?

The answer is found in part in a report entitled "Provisions for Income Security in Canadian Manufacturing Industries", which has been released for distribution by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Starr.

The survey, carried out by the Economics and Research Branch, Department of Labour, indicates the extent of four types of income-security arrangements for non-office workers in manufacturing industries in 1957. Some 5,800 establishments responded to the survey questions.

Almost half of the companies that replied to the question, which employed about 70 per cent of the plant workers, provide "reporting pay", which guarantees a minimum amount of pay to an employee who reports for work at the usual hour and is informed that there is no work available for him. Almost three-quarters of the companies employing 87 per cent of the plant workers provide accident and sickness indemnity insurance, which protects the worker against a temporary loss of his income due to disability resulting from an accident or illness.

The report shows that only about 3 per cent of the 5,800 establishments (accounting for 8 per cent of the employees) has a plan that establishes a fund from which benefits are paid to eligible laid-off employees. It also indicates that only 3 per cent of the companies (4 per cent of the employees) had any form of guaranteed employment or wages. Under these plans a company guarantees that a worker will be paid for a minimum period in a week, a month, a year, or some other unit of time. The employer must schedule his activities in such a way that work will be available for his employees. Guaranteed wages provide basically the same protection to the worker except that the company will pay him all or part of his wages whether he works or not.