

TERRITORIAL LAND RIGHTS TRANSFERRED

The transfer has begun of all land rights in the vicinity of northern municipalities from the Federal Government to the administrations of the Northwest Territories and Yukon Territory, Mr. Jean Chrétien, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, announced in Yellowknife, NWT, recently.

The transfers of 220 square miles round Yellowknife, 95 square miles round Inuvik, NWT, and 240 square miles round Whitehorse, Yukon, are now in effect. Similar transfers of administrative responsibility will take place in all municipalities and established communities in the NWT and Yukon.

Lands required by federal departments and agencies in connection with continuing federal projects, including the lands occupied by or reserved for Indians, are excluded from the transfers. Consequently, these lands will remain federal crown lands, exempt from municipal taxation but eligible for grants in lieu of taxes under the Municipal Grants Act administered by the Department of Finance.

This puts into effect one of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission of the Development of Government in the Northwest Territories suggesting that more autonomy and more responsibilities be granted to the administrations of the Territories. This will enable the administrations to plan and control development within municipal boundaries and surrounding areas.

New revenues will now find their way into the territorial government coffers from all leases of land, sales of land, timber stumpage and gravel pit fees and royalties payable in the area concerned. Another important effect will be that residents will now deal directly with their territorial government in matters touching land rights instead of with a federal land agent.

MURDER STATISTICS, 1969

Homicide reports identified 342 murders in Canada in 1969. There were 314 identified in 1968 and 281 in 1967. As of December 31, 1969, 278, or 81.3 per cent of these murders had been cleared by charge, suicide, or "otherwise".

Of the 277 persons charged with the murders reported in 1969, 156, or 56.5 per cent, had not been tried as of December 31, 1969. Of the 156 persons not sent to trial, 151 were pending preliminary hearing.

For murders reported in 1969, 121 persons were sent to trial as of December 31, 1969, and of these, 14 were acquitted and 85 were convicted of capital or non-capital murder, manslaughter or a lesser offence.

Of the 85 persons convicted, 61 or 71.8 per cent, were convicted of manslaughter or a lesser offence.

AID IN FAMILY PLANNING

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, recently announced that, in recognition of the economic and social problems faced by the developing nations as a result of an unduly rapid population growth, Canada was prepared to provide assistance to such countries in family planning.

Increasing awareness of the implications of the population problem, he said, had already resulted in the establishment in these countries of some large-scale voluntary family planning programs. The United Nations and the World Bank were also giving high priority to the support of programs of population planning.

In order that Canada may make an appropriate contribution to help alleviate the population problem, the Canadian International Development Agency has been authorized to develop a program of assistance. Mr. Sharp indicated that aid could include contributions to intergovernmental multilateral organizations and internationally-recognized private organizations, support of population research. He said that bilateral assistance would be in response to specific requests from developing countries for the type of assistance Canada is capable of supplying.

CANADA'S INTEREST IN THE EEC

The Prime Minister has announced that Canadian ministers will undertake a series of consultations with European governments concerning the negotiations for entry of Britain, Denmark, Ireland and Norway into the European Economic Communities.

These consultations follow previous ministerial level discussions both in Ottawa and in European capitals. The purpose will be to keep participants to the negotiations informed at the highest level of Canada's trading interests which stand to be affected by an expanded Common Market. Canadian cabinet ministers will also be discussing some of the broader political and economic ramifications of an enlarged European Economic Community. These visits also will enable ministers to obtain first-hand information on the progress and prospects of the Common Market negotiations.

FORT WHOOP-UP HISTORIC SITE

Fort Whoop-Up, which once stood about six miles southwest of Lethbridge, Alberta, became a national historic site on September 18, 101 years after it first came into being.

Whoop-Up is recognized as the earliest and most successful of the "whiskey forts" built by the Americans who came from Fort Benton, Montana, to trade their whiskey for Canadian buffalo hides. These forts represented the frontier lawlessness which prompted formation of the North West Mounted Police