

## VISIT OF UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, recently announced that, on the invitation of the Government of Canada, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, would pay an official visit to Ottawa on May 24. The same evening Mr. Waldheim will address the annual meeting of the United Nations Association of Canada in Montreal. The next day, he will be present at a spring convocation and receive an honorary degree at Carleton University, Ottawa.

## TWO-PRICE WHEAT POLICY

Cheques to a total value of \$57,530,385 have been sent to more than 175,000 Western grain-producers, Mr. Otto Lang, the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, announced recently.

This extra payment to the farmers results from the Government's "two-price" policy for wheat announced by Mr. Lang earlier this year, under which producers receive \$3 a bushel on wheat sold for domestic human consumption. The Wheat Board receives \$1.95½ of this amount when it sells the wheat, and the balance is being paid directly by the Treasury to Prairie farmers.

Payments are being made to each Canadian Wheat Board permit-holder to a maximum of 640 eligible acres. The formula for determining the payment an acre is based on the number of bushels of wheat sold in Canada for human consumption and the number of eligible acres in production.

With 68 million eligible acres and an estimated 55,053,000 bushels, the payment will be 84.6 cents an acre. The largest cheques will therefore be just over \$540, the average payment being about \$325.

All producers identified in the permit books and *bona fide* farm co-operatives will receive an initial payment based on the eligible acres for individual producers. Adjustments for those eligible for additional payments will be mailed shortly thereafter.

"The principle of two-price wheat has been discussed for many years and I am pleased that we have now been able to make it a fact and bring this extra income to the Western grain producers," said Mr. Lang.

## TAX RELIEF FOR INDIANS

Indians living on reserves in Quebec are now exempt from the retail sales tax on consumer goods bought off the reserve, provided the merchandise is delivered on the reserve by the vendor for use and consumption by the purchaser. Such is the substance of a recent Order-in-Council passed by the Quebec government on the recommendation of the Minister of Revenue, Gérald Harvey. This measure is designed

to ensure a more efficient administration of the Retail Sales Tax Act in the interest of the Indians and the agents. Until now, only sales between Indians were exempt from the application of this act.

To benefit from the exemption allowed on purchases outside the reserve, not only must the merchandise be delivered on the reserve but the Indian purchaser must also prove his identity to the vendor at the time of purchase and fill in an exemption certificate. These certificates are provided by the chief of the reserve or the vendor himself, who obtains them from the Quebec or Montreal regional office.

## MOTOR VEHICLES

Moreover, an Indian who purchases a motor vehicle from a vendor outside the reserve must pay the tax to the vendor and then apply to the Department for a refund. With his application for a refund, he must submit documentary evidence of his status as an Indian and proof that he has purchased the vehicle for his own use and paid the tax.

## UNIVERSITY OF CANADA NORTH

Nearly 100 delegates attended a recent conference in Inuvik, Northwest Territories to discuss the possibility of a university meeting the needs of the Yukon and Northwest Territories. At present the "University of Canada North" exists only as an idea embodied in a federal charter.

At the conference - to which were invited people from the University of Alaska, Northern Sweden and Norway, and the Navajo Community College in Arizona, as well as students and interested people from the Yukon and NWT, a 31-member board of directors was elected. All are residents of the Yukon and NWT, except the chairman, Richard Rohmer, a Torontonian who is also chairman of the Mid-Canada Development Corporation. Nearly half of the board members are native peoples from both territories.

## PAN-AMERICAN MEDICAL MEET

Health and Welfare Minister John Munro, has announced a \$16,000-health grant to the Association of Canadian Medical Colleges and the University of Toronto, which will provide financial support for the fourth Pan American Conference on Medical Education, to be held in Toronto from August 28 to 30.

The Conference, which has as its theme "Research in Medical Education", is expected to attract 400 delegates from Latin American, American and Canadian medical schools and related health science faculties. It will stress methods and techniques that can be applied in evaluating medical education and which will have an indirect impact on the cost, quality and distribution of health services.