

## REFUGEE AGREEMENTS SIGNED

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, and the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, Mr. A.J. MacEachen, announced on May 26 Canada's adherence to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, to the 1965 Protocol to that Convention, and to the Hague Agreement on Refugee Seamen.

The Convention, adopted by the United Nations in July 1951, is the major international instrument for the protection of refugees. It establishes a common definition of the term "refugee", lays down specific standards for the treatment of refugees in the country of sanctuary or residence and contains safeguards against their expulsion. It does not detract from a country's right to control admission.

The Protocol, adopted by the United Nations in 1967, recognizes the universal nature of the refugee problem and its indefinite duration. Originally the Convention mainly covered persons displaced as the result of the two world wars and, in its definition, limited its scope to persons made refugees "as a result of events occurring before January 1, 1951".

## REFUGEE SEAMEN

The Hague Agreement on Refugee Seamen, concluded in 1957 under the auspices of the International Labour Organization, deals with the problem of refugee seamen on merchant ships who, owing to lack of documents permitting them to return to any country, are sometimes unable to set foot on shore legally. The Hague Agreement provides for the acquisition of legal status in countries which are parties to the Agreement, provided the refugee seaman has some connection with that country, such as service on its ships.

As a major immigration country, Canada has been deeply involved in the re-settlement of refugees, having admitted 300,000 since the end of the Second World War, including many who were unskilled, sick or socially handicapped.

Because past policies have, for the most part, been designed to help solve the plight of persons displaced as a result of events arising out of the Second World War, almost all of the refugees admitted in the past 20 years have been of European origin. Coincident with accession to the Convention, greater attention will be given to the acceptance of refugees for settlement in Canada from other parts of the world.

## SEAWAY'S TENTH BIRTHDAY

Mr. Don C. Jamieson, Minister of Transport, will officiate at the Canadian ceremonies marking the tenth anniversary of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Public ceremonies will be held on June 26 at Place des Nations on St. Helen's Island, within sight of St. Lambert lock, where Queen Elizabeth and the late

President Eisenhower officially opened the Seaway ten years ago on that date. Prime Minister John P. Robarts of Ontario, Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Bertrand of Quebec and Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe of the United States have been invited to attend.

The official party will board the CGS *d'Iberville*, one of the largest icebreakers in the Canadian fleet, for a tour of Montreal Harbour, passing through the entrance to the Seaway to St. Lambert lock. The *d'Iberville* was the first vessel to enter the Seaway at the opening of navigation after its completion in 1959, though the Seaway was not officially opened until the entrance of HMS *Britannia* on June 26, of the same year.

Dr. Pierre Camu, President of the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, has said that, to commemorate ten years of operation, suitable public viewing sites will be provided by the Authority during the next two or three years, so that the increasing number of visitors may see the operation of the system and appreciate its importance. About a million people a year now visit the limited viewing facilities along the Canadian side of the Seaway.

Other events commemorating the Seaway's first decade will be held at Upper Canada Village, Ontario, Chicago, Detroit and several other ports on the Great Lakes.

## EXPORTS INSURANCE RECORD

Insurance and financing operations of the Export Credits Insurance Corporation (ECIC) reached record levels in 1968. The annual report of the Corporation, which was issued last month, lists insured exports at \$247 million during the year (the figure for 1967 was \$214 million). The ECIC also insured \$94-million worth of exports for the account of the Government.

During 1968, the ECIC agreed to finance a record volume of capital goods exports worth \$258 million, subject to approval of each forthcoming transaction by the Governor in Council. These commitments resulted in the securing of \$21-million worth of business. Part of the remainder, however, is being carried over into 1969 for contracts still under negotiation.

## EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

A bill to establish an Export Development Corporation (EDC) to succeed the ECIC was laid before Parliament in March by Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, through whom the new Corporation will report to Parliament. With expanded responsibilities as well as new and improved facilities, including guarantees of certain investments abroad, the EDC will assume all of the ECIC's present functions, assets and liabilities.

The ECIC was established in 1945 to facilitate