

AID TO LATIN AMERICA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, recently announced that Canada would provide educational aid to Latin America for the first time under the terms of a loan agreement with Chile. A special development loan of \$4,320,000 will be made through the Inter-American Development Bank to the Technical University of Chile to assist in the improvement of its standards and the expansion of its facilities.

Surveys show that Chile's economic growth is such that the country will suffer a shortage of engineers and technicians by 1970 unless increased educational opportunities can be offered.

Most of the Canadian loan will be used to purchase laboratory and shop equipment in Canada. Funds will also be used to provide post-graduate fellowships in Canada for about 75 Chilean professors and to send Canadian advisers and consultants to Chile.

The total cost of the project is expected to be \$14,900,000; the university and the Inter-American Development Bank are supplying the remaining capital.

The loan is part of a \$30-million fund built up by the Inter-American Development Bank from funds earmarked from the Canadian aid programme for Latin American development. Eight other smaller projects have already been supported with these funds. They include the development of facilities at the Port of Acajutla in El Salvador, industrial and mining equipment for Bolivia, a resources-development study of the Guayas River valley in Ecuador, a series of highway studies in Paraguay, a project aimed at speeding the economic integration of Central America, and feasibility studies in Mexico, Peru and Argentina.

TORONTO'S NEW TRADE OFFICE

Trade and Commerce Minister Winters recently announced the opening on April 24 of a departmental regional office in Toronto. The new office will bring federal export promotion services closer to the concentration of Ontario businessmen in the city and neighbouring communities, and will facilitate departmental liaison with trade authorities and Toronto-based organizations concerned with the development of Canadian export trade.

This is the seventh regional office operated by the Department of Trade and Commerce in Canada. Others are located at Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Montreal, Halifax and St. John's, Newfoundland.

The Toronto office will work closely with Ontario firms to help them develop their export interests. It will further existing departmental liaison with the business community, trade authorities, the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Toronto, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and other Ontario-based trade and industry associations.

CANADA IN NATO EXERCISE

Since April 7, submarines and aircraft of Canada, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Britain and the United States have been taking part in a joint NATO exercise, entitled "Quick Pursuit". The operation, which was carried out between Norway and Iceland, north of the Faroes, provided extensive anti-submarine training for both the submarine forces and maritime patrol aircraft.

Six British submarines took part, including the nuclear-powered *Dreadnought*, four American, and two each from the Netherlands, France and Norway. Maritime patrol aircraft from Canada, the United States, Britain and France also took part.

Participation by HMS *Dreadnought* enabled both submarines and aircraft to gain valuable experience in operating both with and against a fast nuclear submarine capable of travelling long distances at a high speed.

REPORT ON DRUG POISONING

Mr. Allan J. MacEachen, National Health and Welfare Minister, has released a report entitled *Acetylsalicylic Acid Poisonings*, prepared by his Department's Food and Drug Directorate.

Acetylsalicylic acid, popularly referred to as ASA, was responsible for some 25 per cent of the 23,386 poisonings reported in 1964 to poison-control centres in Canada. Of these 5,820 cases, 4,793 occurred in children under five years of age. In 1964, ASA was the cause of nine deaths, seven of them children under five years.

The report states that, while ASA may be considered as one of the most effective, commonly-used drugs today, means must be found to protect consumers more adequately, particularly the very young, against its potential dangers. These dangers stem from two factors, says the report - mishandling as a result of ignorance or apathy, and mechanical and commercial factors related to packaging and sales. Studies, therefore, were concerned fundamentally with education, packaging and marketing of ASA.

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

The report included the following recommendations:

Continuing educational programmes should be established to instil both immediate and long-term caution in the minds of the public without creating any untoward fear of the drug or doubt about its value when properly used.

The 1/4-grain dosage strength of ASA should be the only permissible dosage designated as "children's size" and the quantity in any individual retail package should not exceed 24 doses.

Labels on ASA preparations should contain a legible, conspicuous warning statement of the drug's potential danger to children.

Cardboard slide boxes and envelopes are the least desirable containers because they provide the least resistance to children. Heavy glass or plastic