

public figures, including the Prime Minister, have contributed to the success of this national institution.

### *Hockey Canada*

As a result of the report in 1969 of the Task Force on Sport for Canadians, an organization called Hockey Canada was established. On its board of directors are representatives of all hockey interests in Canada, including the National Hockey League, the World Hockey Association, the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association and the Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union. In addition, it has representatives of the Federal Government and of the public at large.

Hockey Canada has assumed responsibility for Canada's participation in international hockey. In addition, it offers scholarships to outstanding young players who wish to continue their education, and conducts research into coaching methods.

### *International competition*

Hockey has made great strides internationally since the first recognized world hockey competition took place at Antwerp in connection with the 1920 Winter Olympic Games. The Canadian Amateur Hockey Association has each year (with one or two notable exceptions, such as the Winter Olympics in Moscow in 1957, at which Canada was not represented)

provided the Canadian representative. Club teams (as distinct from national "all-star" teams) have won 19 world championships and six Olympic hockey titles. In addition, since 1945 Canada has sent many amateur teams on exhibition tours through such countries as Japan, Sweden, Finland, Norway, the U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, and East and West Germany.

In the last few years, the calibre of hockey in other countries has improved so much that Canada now feels justified in moving into the all-star classification, rather than sending a strengthened club team into world competition. The experiment with a *national* team started with the Ninth Winter Olympic Games at Innsbruck in 1964, at which Canada was represented by a group of young Canadians, mostly university students, between the ages of 19 and 27. The improvement in European teams was dramatically shown by a three-way tie for second place among Canada, Czechoslovakia and Sweden. When the goal averages were calculated, Canada, for the first time in history, failed to win an Olympic hockey medal.

In 1970, Canada withdrew from international competition on the ground that it was not allowed to send its best (i.e., professional) players. As a result of negotiations with the International Ice Hockey Federation, which led to the playing of the