

## INTERNATIONAL WHEAT PACT

Canada will sign a new three-year International Wheat Agreement effective July 1, 1971, to replace the International Grains Agreement, which expires on that date, Mr. Otto E. Lang, Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, said recently.

The new instrument contains two conventions, one for wheat marketing and the other for food aid. Mr. Lang expressed disappointment that it "does not contain effective price provisions and is thus much less than we had hoped for".

The agreement, however, does provide for machinery to undertake consultations in the event of actual or threatened disturbance in market conditions, including price fluctuations. The object of such consultations would be to seek ways of restoring market stability.

It also provides that the International Wheat Council will maintain a continuing review of pricing provisions. When it is generally accepted that new pricing provisions are capable of negotiation, a conference will be convened for this purpose.

"We will remain in close contact with our major partners on this point so as to prepare the ground for a new conference," the Minister said.

Under the Food Aid Convention, Canada will provide 18.6 million bushels of the total of 150 million bushels of grain to be supplied each year to developing countries. Canada's commitment remains the same but the total quantity is less than the 160 million bushels provided under the old agreement, largely because Britain, Norway and Denmark have decided not to participate.

"The Government intends to sign the new agreement which we are confident will receive widespread acceptance by other governments, including major exporters and importers," Mr. Lang said. "We welcome the fact that international co-operation in wheat marketing will be maintained and intend to make effective use of the agreement's consultative machinery in the interest of maintaining market stability," he concluded.

## POWER FROM THE OUTARDES RIVER

To regulate the flow of the Outardes, River, Hydro-Quebec created an 858-billion-cubic-foot reservoir covering 250 square miles, which was formed by two large rockfill dams, a series of smaller earth and rockfill dams, dykes and a concrete spillway. The largest dam, which contains 9,800,000 cubic yards of material, is 58 miles from the mouth of the river.

The Outardes 4 power-house, just below the main dam, contains four units rated at a total of 632,000 kilowatts under a net head of 395 feet. All units were commissioned in 1969.

About 15 miles downstream from Outardes 4,

Hydro-Quebec built a concrete gravity dam, 980 feet long and 275 feet high, to create a local headpond and a net head of 471 feet for the 756,000-kilowatt Outardes 3 power-station. This station, built underground, was also completed in 1969. Its four 260,000-horsepower turbines are the largest in the world, with cylindrical valves designed to cut off full flow.

Hydro-Quebec will build a third station on the Outardes River with a capacity of 454,000 kilowatts, but no date had yet been set. This station, to be known as Outardes 2, will replace a 50,000-kilowatt station that a private company has operated at the mouth of the river since 1937. (One of a series.)



Outardes 3, completed in 1969, is an underground power-house.

## FIFTH BIG JET FOR FORCES

Mr. Donald S. Macdonald, Minister of National Defence, recently announced that the Government had authorized the purchase of a fifth Boeing 707 long-range jet transport for the Canadian Forces, to join the four others that had been in service since last March.

The 707s replace Air Transport Command's 12 turboprop Yukon aircraft, which are scheduled to be phased out of service by the end of next month.

The additional aircraft will provide a degree of flexibility not achievable with only four 707s, to cope with the long-range transport commitments that can occur at the same time. Two of the huge planes are being modified to provide an "inflight" refuelling capability for the deployment of short-range fighter and tactical aircraft.

The total cost for the new Boeing is estimated at between \$10 and \$11 million, including spare parts, which will be met within the fixed defence-budget ceiling for 1970-71.

Annual operating costs for the five 707s will be just under \$11.5 million, compared to \$16 million for the Yukon fleet.