

of NGOs in 1978 so that "further impetus can be given to the important preliminary deliberations and the recommendations made at Dalhousie".

One of the most interesting and controversial recommendations to come out of the meeting was that some 2 to 3 per cent of official development assistance resources be directed through multilateral Commonwealth channels.

The highlight of the Conference was a speech by Commonwealth Secretary-General Ramphal at a dinner given by Dalhousie University President Senator Henry Hicks on October 29. Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal drew the attention of the Conference participants to the role of the Commonwealth in redressing the international balance of economic power and in helping to find a solution, in whatever way it could, to the current situation in Southern Africa.

Canada/U.S. northern highway

Canadian and United States officials have successfully concluded negotiations for an agreement for a highway rebuilding and paving project in northern British Columbia and the Yukon.

In making the announcement on November 10, Judd Buchanan, Minister of Public Works, said the formal exchange of diplomatic notes between Canada and the U.S. would take place very shortly.

This program will provide an improved and safer road from Haines, Alaska, the northern terminus of the Alaska Ferry System, to the Yukon-Alaska border, which will be accessible to U.S., as well as to Canadian traffic. The total highway distance involved is 322 miles with 52 miles of the Haines Road in British Columbia and 65 miles in the

Yukon, plus 205 miles of the Alaska Highway between Haines Junction and the Alaska-Yukon border.

Terms of agreement

The terms of the agreement between Canada and the U.S. call for the United States to provide funds for the reconstruction and paving: British Columbia, as its contribution, will provide the additional right-of-way required and the use of natural construction materials within its boundaries. The Department of Public Works will manage the project and will set up and administer the committees required to define construction schedules and procedures. The United States Federal Highway Administration will review the program for the United States.

Before any construction begins, an environmental impact study will be carried out and appropriate follow-up public meetings will be held.

Commonwealth Secretary-General in Ottawa

Commonwealth Secretary-General Ramphal was in Ottawa November 3 to 6. Mr. Ramphal, who was guest speaker at a dinner concluding the Dalhousie Conference in Halifax, met with Prime Minister Trudeau, Allan J. MacEachen, Government House Leader, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Don Jamieson, and the Speaker of the House, J. Jerome. He also met with officials from the Department of External Affairs and the Canadian International Development Agency and attended the Third Canadian Regional

Parliamentary Seminar. He addressed the Royal Commonwealth Society and attended a reception given by the Governor General.

Secretary-General Ramphal's visit was timely as the Commonwealth Secretariat has recently been granted observer status at the United Nations and the Secretary-General has also undertaken to provide assistance to the leaders of all Zimbabwe nationalist delegations invited to the Geneva Conference on Rhodesia. Mr. Ramphal's presence in Ottawa gave represent-

atives of the Government of Canada an opportunity to discuss the existing situation in Southern Africa, particularly since Mr. Ramphal has recently returned from a visit to several African countries. Among other major topics of discussion were arrangements for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting scheduled to take place in London, England next June.

Health care by satellite

Canada's first intensive experiment of improved medical care by satellite for people living in remote regions began in London, Ontario, November 4.

The five-month "telemedicine" test, linking London's University Hospital with Moose Factory General Hospital on James Bay and a remote northern nursing station at Kasechewan, Ontario, uses Canada's experimental *Hermes* communications technology satellite (CTS). The \$600,000-experiment is co-sponsored by the federal Department of Communications, the Department of National Health and Welfare and the University of Western Ontario.

Even as equipment was still being installed, *Hermes* proved its worth on two separate occasions, October 19 and 20: In the first, a three-station



The Prime Minister (left) meets Secretary-General S.S. Ramphal in Ottawa.