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## Views on food strategy sought

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan said recently that the Federal Government was inviting food organizations to submit briefs on the implications of the Government's "food strategy".

"The White Paper entitled, *A Food Strategy for Canada*, which was released last June, provides a basis for free and open discussion with agricultural and fisheries producers, processors, distributors, retailers, consumers and provincial governments. The submission of briefs is another avenue of the consultation the Government is seeking with all concerned.

"The Government would be pleased to receive submissions concerning the food strategy from any group that wants to bring its views or recommendations to the attention of the Government," Mr. Whelan said, "...especially in the context of the post wage-and-price-control period."

Federal cabinet ministers who will review the submissions, will meet with representatives of these organizations in December.

"We plan to follow through with discussions with provincial governments and with a national food strategy conference in February for everyone concerned with the food system," said Mr. Whelan.

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## Auto trade with the U.S.

Exports to the United States of motor vehicles and parts rose 30 per cent from those in the first half of 1976 to \$5,148 million in the same period of 1977. Higher shipments of cars and trucks accounted for 56 per cent of the gain, after an extraordinary rise in real expenditures on automotive products in the U.S. during the months of January-June 1977. Shipments of cars and trucks expanded by 22.5 per cent and 37 per cent, respectively.

Canadian imports of motor vehicles and parts from the U.S. increased 24.5 per cent to \$5,745 million in the first half of 1977. Sharply rising imports of automotive components in the current year were 24 percent above the total for the first half of 1976, in comparison with increases of 29.5 per cent and 18.5 per cent, respectively, for cars and trucks.

An improvement in the surplus on the trade in vehicles resulted in a small decline

in the over-all automotive deficit to \$597 million in the first half of 1977 from \$654 million in the comparable period of 1976.

### Overseas trade

In Canada's trade with overseas countries, exports rose sharply, while imports increased only marginally between the first halves of 1976 and 1977. Shipments of passenger vehicles nearly doubled to \$180 million in the first half of 1977, while exports of other vehicles and parts increased slightly from the January-June period of 1976. Car shipments increased to Venezuela and other oil-producing countries in the Middle East.

Because of the decline in arrivals of overseas cars, which was outweighed by a 10 percent rise in imports of American automobiles, the U.S. share of the total number of imported cars expanded from 75 per cent to almost 80 per cent between the first halves of 1976 and 1977. The Japanese share dropped from 16.5 per cent to 14 per cent. The average advance in the unit values of imported vehicles between the two periods was 18.3 per cent. The increase for cars from West Germany was higher than the average, but the rise for Japanese automobiles was considerably lower at 6.3 per cent.

The strengthening against the Canadian dollar of between 5.5 per cent and 14 per cent in the currencies of the three principal suppliers (the U.S., Japan and West Germany) contributed to enhancing the unit values. Basic price increases, the introduction of new product lines and changes in the types of import also affected the average prices.

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## International women's meeting

Mrs. Gordon B. (Kay) Armstrong of Victoria, British Columbia, past president of the National Council of Women of Canada and chairman of the Laws and Suffrage Committee of the International Council of Women, will be in Bogotá, Colombia, November 21-26, for the founding meeting of the ICW American Regional Council (ARC). The president of the International Council of Women, Princess Prem Purachatra of Thailand, who was in Ottawa last June to attend the annual meeting of the Canadian National Council, spoke to the members about the value of establishing regional groupings of national councils.

A total of 72 national councils are af-

filiated to the ICW, an organization which holds consultative status at the United Nations. There are 18 national councils in the Western hemisphere. The president of the NCW of Colombia, Dr. Cecilia Fernandez de Pallini, is ARC preparatory chairman. Delegates are expected from the Western hemisphere councils, as well as from other Western hemisphere countries where no councils are yet established. Princess Prem and other ICW executive board members will attend, as well as representatives from the UN and from other ICW regional councils already set up in Asia, Europe and Africa.



*Kay Armstrong*

On the Bogotá agenda will be the establishment of a regional council for the Americas; discussions on the family in America, and women's responsibility with regard to hemispheric development. Mrs. Armstrong will speak on the family in America, including the International Year of the Child (1979), the rural family, family planning and the fundamental need for education and communication. Sessions will take place at the University of Rosario.

Mrs. Armstrong graduated in political science and sociology at the University of Toronto. She served overseas in the Canadian Women's Army Corps in the Second World War, as well as in Canada. She has been active in consumer organizations, the Ontario Provincial Council of Women and other groups and, in 1977, became a founding member and director of MATCH, an international centre to match needs and resources of women in Canada and developing countries.