

(C.W.B. June 24, 1949)

RCAF RESCUE OPERATIONS: The RCAF took part in 116 different search and rescue operations during the 12 months ending March 31, 1949, and its planes flew more than 2500 hours on these operations, it was announced by Air Force Headquarters, Ottawa.

In addition to the 116 total, which represents the number of cases in which Air Force planes and marine craft took part, the RCAF Search and Rescue organization co-operated in many more operations, where facilities were provided by other agencies. Much valuable assistance was given by Navy and Army, by other government departments, and by commercial agencies. Air Force Headquarters also said that much credit for the successful Search and Rescue work should be given to the signals organizations of the Armed Services, without which the work could not be carried out.

The 12-month total of operations is broken into 42 cases where the search was for civil and military aircraft, 35 cases where assistance was given marine craft, 28 "mercy flights" and 11 others. In the five Search and Rescue Co-ordination Centres, at Halifax, Trenton, Ont.; Winnipeg; Edmonton, and Vancouver, the largest number of incidents was handled by Halifax, with a total of 55. Greatest amount of flying time was rolled up by Winnipeg, which logged 1094 hours for aircraft flying under its control. A large part of this total was logged during the search for the US Navy Beechcraft last Autumn, with the American and British naval attachés aboard. It was located after a 12-day search, and its 5 crewmembers and passengers rescued.

MR. BROTT AT THE HAGUE: Two concerts recently conducted at The Hague by the Canadian composer and conductor, Alexander Brott, and carried over the Home service of the Netherlands Radio, have won praise from music critics in The Hague. Mr. Brott first conducted the Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, consisting of 93 musicians, rendering the Overture "Carnival" by Oscar Morawetz, and his own suite, "From Sea to Sea." The second concert consisted of a variety of Canadian compositions. In addition to the concerts Mr. Brott gave a lecture on Canadian Music under the auspices of the Netherlands Canada Society.

ASSISTANCE TO HOSPITALS: The federal Department of Health has announced approval of grants totalling more than \$253,000 to assist five hospital construction projects in London, Ont.; Sorel and Matane, Que.; Sackville, N.B.; and Windsor, N.S. The combined increase in bed capacity for the five hospitals will be more than 435.

Largest single grant--more than \$131,900--goes to the new Hôpital du Saint-Rédempteur, Matane, Que. When completed later this year, this hospital, operated by the Dominicans de

l'Enfant-Jésus, will have 167 beds and will be fully equipped for the care of medical, surgical and obstetrical cases. It will serve about 50,000 people in the county of Matane.

A grant of \$50,000 has been approved to assist in extending the children's wing of Victoria Hospital, London. An additional 50 beds will be added for the care of sick and injured children.

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He also concurred with Mr. Ignatieff's views.

Semyon K. Tsarapkin of the USSR said the proposal was not in accordance with General Assembly decisions. Its obvious aim was, in his opinion, to postpone practical measures for the reduction of armaments. Without previous agreement on this main task, he said, gathering of data would mean only collection of intelligence information.

Against the background of General Assembly and Security Council decisions which had pronounced the twin problems of armaments reduction and the prohibition of atomic weapons an "indivisible problem," the French plan "put matters completely upside down", he said. Only those who aimed at "wrecking" armaments reduction could so lightly "distort the real issue." This tactic, the same as the one applied in the Atomic Energy Commission, said Mr. Tsarapkin, was "sabotage" of the urgent and main task assigned to the Commission by the General Assembly.

Vasily A. Tarassenko of the Ukraine declared the French plan was "not a serious document". The gathering of data as proposed in that plan was pointless if viewed in connection with the real task before the Committee, but obviously not pointless so far as the "concealed thoughts" of the French Delegation were concerned, whose aim, he said, was to obtain intelligence data on countries against which aggression was being planned.

The U.S. and its "Atlantic allies", said Mr. Tarassenko, were doing everything to worsen international relations and to undermine international confidence. Data collected would be obsolete within a year as the U.S. was engaged in a "crazy armaments race."

MR. IGNATIEFF'S VIEWS

Mr. Ignatieff (Canada) pointed out that the duties of the Atomic Energy Commission had been outlined by the General Assembly as far back as January 24, 1946, and were separate from those of the Commission for Conventional Armaments. One could not start "with a blank wall and no facts." It was, on the contrary, necessary and sensible first to accumulate facts and then to build on them any plans for the reduction of armaments.

Mr. Nash (U.S.) described the Soviet arguments as "red herrings and irrelevancies". One "especially old and malodorous" one, he said, was that one and the same agency was to con-

sider atomic problems and armaments reduction, specifically separated by the General Assembly. There was therefore no inconsistency in a separate body for conventional armaments, he declared. It was a "pernicious over-simplification" to claim as the Soviet representative had done, that the Committee should get down to the task of reducing armaments right away. First, said Mr. Nash, it had to be "ascertained what there is to disarm."

The U.S. has offered to give up the atomic bomb, he said, and this offer pre-supposed disclosure of the number of bombs it possessed.

Mr. Tsarapkin (USSR) declared that without previous agreement on the main issue, gathering of data would be nothing else but "naked espionage."

ICAO THIRD ASSEMBLY: With economy as its keynote, the ICAO Third Assembly completed its sessions in Montreal on June 20 by voting a budget of 2,810,607 Canadian dollars for the operation of the International Civil Aviation Organization during 1950. This marks a reduction of \$251,000 from the original estimates of the ICAO Council and will allow ICAO to continue its working program at the present level but does not allow for any expansion. Of the total budget, \$200,000 will come from ICAO's working capital fund, and the remainder is assessed to the Organization's 54 member nations with regard to their interest in international civil aviation and to their ability to pay. The 1949 budget is \$2,649,685.

Other budgetary resolutions approved by the Third Assembly June 20 include one designed to ease the difficulty encountered by certain nations in obtaining Canadian dollars by allowing the ICAO Secretary General to accept a portion of the contributions of Contracting States in currencies other than dollars, and another which suspends the voting power of six Member States for failure to discharge their financial obligations to the Organization for a period exceeding two years. The Assembly also decided that the Organization, which is a Specialized Agency of the United Nations, should join the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund.

The current Assembly was a limited one, devoted almost entirely to financial and administrative matters, but a full-scale meeting to consider important technical civil aviation matters will be held next year. The Assembly foresaw the possibility of this meeting taking place outside of Montreal and has instructed the ICAO Council to bear in mind the invitation of the Argentine Government that the Fourth Assembly be held in Buenos Aires.

President of the Third Assembly was Sardar H.S. Malik (India); Vice-Presidents were Brigadier General H. Da Cunha Machado (Brazil), Ali Fuad Bey (Iraq) and Colonel Humberto Delgado (Portugal). Representatives of 35 nations and two international organizations were present.

SCIENTIFIC CONGRESSES ABROAD: Canada will be represented at two important scientific congresses being held in Europe in July, according to an announcement made on June 22 by the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson.

W.B. Timm, Director of the Mines, Forests and Scientific Services Branch, will head the Canadian delegation to the Fourth Empire Mining and Metallurgical Congress held in Great Britain July 9 to 23. Mr. Timm will present a paper outlining the changes in Canada's mineral resources during the past ten years.

Other members of the Department attending are Dr. R.B. MacKay, Geological Survey, and C.S. Parsons, Chief, Bureau of Mines. The program includes visits to certain centres in England, Scotland and Wales, where various phases of mining and metallurgical developments will be seen at first hand. Mr. Parsons will also visit iron mines and metallurgical works in Belgium, Luxembourg, and France.

D.A. Macdonald, Dominion Forester, and Col. J.H. Jenkins, Assistant Superintendent of the Ottawa Forest Products Laboratory, will represent the Department at the Third World Forestry Congress in Helsinki, Finland, July 10 to 20. Forest research and developments within the industry will form the basis of discussions. Mr. Macdonald and Col. Jenkins will also visit Great Britain and Scandinavia to discuss research in forestry and wood products with authorities in these countries.

During the Congress Col. Jenkins will present a paper on "Wood Waste in the Forest and Industry". The first World Forestry Congress was held in Rome in 1926, the second in Budapest in 1936. The third meeting planned for Finland in 1940 was postponed on account of the war.

POTATO EXPORT PERMITS: Effective on June 20, export permits will be granted for the shipment of table stock potatoes to the United States, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, has announced.

In November 1948 the Government announced that an agreement had been reached with the United States Government to prevent any possible flooding of the American table stock market and consequent damage to their price support program. At the same time, by channeling seed potato exports through recognized seed buyers, Canada retained her important seed outlet in the United States.

The supply position has now changed materially and with the concurrence of the United States Government, exports of Canadian table stock to the United States will again be permitted.

Throughout the year permits have been granted for exports of potatoes to other markets.