

## CANADA-THAILAND TRADE PACT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, has announced that a commercial *modus vivendi* between Canada and the Kingdom of Thailand was signed in Bangkok on April 22. Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, signed on behalf of Canada and His Excellency Thanat Khoman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, signed for Thailand. The agreement provides for an exchange of most-favoured-nation customs tariff treatment between the two countries.

Over the past few years, Canada and Thailand have enjoyed increasingly close relations. During the past decade, Thailand has sustained economic progress and, last year, achieved a growth rate of 8 per cent. The conclusion of the recent pact is consistent with Canada's policies of increasing relations with the nations of the Pacific, and expanding trade relations with developing countries, as well as with its commitments in international

organizations to assist growing countries in their efforts to accelerate economic growth. It is hoped that the new agreement will provide a basis for an expansion of mutually advantageous trade between Canada and Thailand.

Thailand is not a member of the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade and, until the signing of the *modus vivendi*, was one of the few remaining countries whose goods were subject to the general tariff in Canada. Though the volume of Canadian trade with Thailand is relatively small, Thailand is a growing market for Canadian goods. Canadian exports to Thailand have increased from \$2.8 million in 1963 to \$7.1 million in 1968. In recent years Canadian exports to Thailand have included chiefly aircraft, non-ferrous metals and metal products. Canadian imports from Thailand have also grown from \$583,000 in 1963 to \$2 million in 1968. Over 75 per cent of Thailand's exports to Canada consists of tin products.

## CABINET CHANGES

Prime Minister Trudeau announced on May 5 a reallocation of departmental responsibilities of three Cabinet members: Mr. Donald C. Jamieson, formerly the Minister of Supply and Services, becomes the Minister of Transport, replacing Mr. Paul T. Hellyer, who recently resigned from the Cabinet; Mr. Robert K. Andras continues as a Minister without Portfolio but is now responsible for housing; and Mr. James Richardson, formerly Minister without Portfolio, becomes the Minister of Supply and Services.

## OIL DRILLING IN ARCTIC ISLANDS

Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, has announced that a deep exploratory well has started to test for oil in Canada's Arctic Islands. The Minister said that Panarctic Drake Point L-67 "spudded in" on April 19, on Melville Island. The well, which will reach a depth of 10,000 feet, is situated about 1,500 miles north of Edmonton and 1,000 from the North Pole.

The well is the first of more than 15 that will be drilled during the next three years on the Arctic Islands by Panarctic Oils Ltd., a firm in which the Federal Government holds a 45 per cent equity interest.

The Drake Point well has been located on the basis of extensive seismic investigations on Melville Island conducted by Panarctic in the spring and summer of 1968. Seismic exploration already under way this year on other Arctic Islands will determine the sites of other wells to be drilled by Panarctic. Other firms have advised the Department of their plans to drill in Canada's Arctic Islands this summer.

In announcing the beginning of drilling at Drake Point, Mr. Chrétien cautioned that oil discoveries should not necessarily be expected in these initial programmes, but added that oil would be discovered eventually. He said that active exploration of oil and gas lands in the Arctic Islands, in addition to extensive activities by other government agencies, demonstrate effective occupation and ensure Canada's sovereignty over this northern region.

## MILAN MUSIC PRIZE

Marc Fortier, a Montreal composer and orchestra leader, recently won the grand prize for composition in the Fernando Ballo competition of the Milanese academy "I pomeriggi musicali" for his work entitled *Un doigt de la lune*. The Fernando Ballo competition is open each year to any composer in the world.

The première of *Un doigt de la lune*, the overture to a suite, in two movements entitled *Jeux des énigmes* and *Indigo*, took place in Milan, on May 3, under the direction of Nino Sanzogno, well-known Italian orchestra leader. The work will be performed again on radio and television, as well as at the festival in Venice.

Marc Fortier, who is 28 years old, is a graduate of the Montreal Conservatory of Music, in writing and composition. He is at present director of the department of music on the Chambly Regional School Board, and musical director of the Théâtre Lyrique de Laval, Quebec.

Air Canada took delivery of 25 aircraft in 1968, increasing the number of jets to 58 and the total fleet to 109.