

### Canada-Cuba claims negotiations

The Department of External Affairs expects that the second round of claims negotiations between Canada and Cuba will be held in Havana late in 1973. In these discussions the Canadian Government is attempting to obtain compensation for the property of Canadians that has been nationalized, confiscated or otherwise taken by the Cuban Government.

Persons who were Canadian citizens at the time their property was taken by Cuba and who have not already informed the Claims Section of the Department of External Affairs at Ottawa of their claims were urged to do so immediately, so that their claims may be considered during the negotiations.

### New information policy for consumer health protection

Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde announced on August 27 a new information policy whereby his Department's Health Protection Branch would release more details of potential health hazards to the public from foods, drugs and other manufactured products.

The public will also be given more information on actions taken regarding certain products on sale, or destined for sale in Canada.

"In response to the growing interest and concern of the Canadian consumer, individually and collectively, regarding the safety and efficacy of the wide variety of foods, drugs, cosmetics, medical devices and other manufactured goods that are available on the Canadian market, or destined for it, the Health Protection Branch will make readily available information about potentially hazardous products and actions taken by the Branch to protect Canadians," Mr. Lalonde stated.

In a letter signed by Dr. A.B. Morrison, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Protection Branch, manufacturers of foods, drugs, cosmetics, medical devices and radiation-emitting devices were informed that, effective immediately, the Health Protection Branch would make public:

(1) The withdrawal or suspension of sale of foods, drugs, cosmetics, medi-

cal devices and radiation-emitting devices when their continued sale was considered to be a hazard to health;

(2) major seizures of products after legal charges had been laid or major seizures had been forfeited to the Crown with the consent of the owner; and

(3) information related to foods, drugs, cosmetics, medical devices and radiation-emitting devices that had been refused entry into Canada.

The information will be released through the monthly publication, *Rx Bulletin*, distribution of which will be increased to reach medical professions, other interested organizations, associations, manufacturers, and the media.

In cases where the continued sale of a product would be a hazard to health, the initial release of the information will, as in the past, be through departmental statement or press release to the media, agencies and organizations concerned, depending on the urgency of the situation.

Until the introduction of the new policy, the only information released on a regular basis by the Health Protection Branch was concerning foods, drugs, cosmetics and medical devices related to convictions under the Food and Drugs Act and Regulations. These are published in the *Quarterly Reports of Convictions*.

### Budding ballet stars

In an effort to find talented youngsters to enroll in its full-time school, the National Ballet School has announced a new program of training for children from six to nine years old. Junior Division, as the program is called, is designed to discover and give preparatory training to youngsters who may have the potential to become students in the School's ballet/academic course.

The School hopes to find about 20 to 40 students at auditions this month, who will be divided into classes according to age and experience. They will attend classes one to three times a week from September to June.

The young dancers will be allowed to continue training until the age of ten, at which time they will be considered as candidates for the full-time school.

### Gross national product — second quarter 1973

The Canadian economy maintained its high level of activity in the second quarter of 1973 following very high rates of growth in the fourth quarter of 1972 and the first quarter of 1973. Although preliminary estimates indicate that total growth slowed in the second quarter, an exceptionally large gain was recorded in housing construction, while corporation profits and non-residential investment continued to grow at above-average rates. Farm income also increased very sharply. Exports of goods and services rose more slowly in the second quarter, but imports declined, resulting in an improvement in the balance of trade of somewhat more than \$1 billion at annual rates. The moderation, after two quarters of unsustainable growth, was also reflected by an increase of only 1 per cent in the index of real domestic product and a slower rate of advance in employment. As in the first quarter, the second quarter showed strong inflationary pressures, particularly evident in food and raw material prices.

### Continuing price increases

Gross national product at market prices reached a level of \$116 billion, seasonally adjusted at annual rates, an increase of \$3.3 billion or 3.0 per cent following a rise of 4.5 per cent in the revised first quarter. The increase mainly reflected continued price increases; the overall implicit price index rose by 2.0 per cent compared to 1.8 per cent in the first quarter and 0.7 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1972. Thus, in volume terms the rate of expansion in the economy moderated to 0.9 per cent after an increase of 2.7 per cent in the first quarter.

The United States economy also grew more slowly in the second quarter; in real terms the growth was 0.6 per cent, with prices rising by about 1.7 per cent. The patterns of growth in the two countries showed some dissimilarities. Inventory accumulation was a source of strength in the U.S. but of weakness in Canada, while business fixed investment was relatively much stronger in this country. On the other hand, consumer outlays, especially on automobiles, slowed in both countries.