

PEARSON FELLOWSHIPS FOR PROFESSIONALS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

A newly-established program of fellowships commemorating former Canadian Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson will enable outstanding young professionals from developing countries to study and travel in Canada. The first five Pearson Fellows, young men or women between the ages of 25-35 who are beginning a career of public service in their home countries are expected to arrive in Canada by November of this year.

Mr Pearson—Prime Minister of Canada from 1963-1968, and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize—was widely

respected for his efforts to promote international cooperation and economic development. The Pearson Fellowship program will be administered by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Ottawa, a public corporation established in 1970 to support research by developing country professionals. Mr. Pearson was the first Chairman of the Board of Governors of IDRC.

The first awards are to be made in the field of agriculture. They will enable candidates to pursue any program of formal or informal study, research, or other professional activity

that provides them with increased competence within this general area. Awards will cover the actual costs of travel to Canada, tuition or training fees, and include allowances for books and research costs, travel within Canada, and a modest stipend.

Canadian Missions in developing countries will be responsible for nominating candidates for the Pearson Fellowships. Canadian diplomatic personnel are in frequent contact with government departments in developing countries, and are aware of the young people who should be considered for one of these awards.

THREE NEW STAMPS

The Canada Post Office Department issued new 15-cent, 20-cent, and 25-cent stamps on 8 August.

Each stamp features a Canadian tree. The 15-cent stamp portrays the trembling aspen, a member of the poplar family which grows throughout the forested areas of Canada. The Douglas fir, a tree native to the Pacific coast, appears on the 20-cent stamp. The 25-cent stamp, which will be used for international mail, depicts Canada's famous sugar maple.

"These new stamps not only re-



veal the beauty of our forest areas", said Mr. Blais, Postmaster General, "but are a reminder also of the significant contribution the forest

industries have made to the economic well-being of Canada."

Toronto artist Heather Cooper designed the three stamps.

INCREASE IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Canada's estimated spending in official development assistance (ODA) for 1977-78 will be \$1.1 billion, a 10 per cent increase over last year's \$1,000,400,000 budget. From 1971 to 1976, ODA increases averaged 20 per cent, but in the light of the government's current policy of fiscal austerity, increases for 1976-77 and 1977-78 have been kept at about 10 per cent.

The percentage of the Gross National Product (GNP) to be spent on ODA in 1977-78 is projected at 0.53, the same as last year's ODA/GNP ratio, but down from the 0.56 level of two years ago. Although Canada remains committed to the UN goal of 0.7

per cent of GNP for ODA, set at the beginning of the Second Development Decade in 1970, the government has not set a date for reaching that goal.

Official development assistance includes the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) budget and all other assistance given by the Government of Canada on concessional terms. So in 1977-78, ODA will consist of \$971,299,000 in CIDA loans, grants, contributions, investments and advances, \$34,500,000 in support for the International Development Research Centre, and \$94,201,000 in loans from the Department of Finance.

CIDA's estimates break down into \$506,500,000 in bilateral (direct government to government) assistance, not including food aid; \$191,799,000 in multilateral cooperation, again excluding food aid; \$2,000,000 in international emergency relief, and \$41,000,000 for special programs, consisting mainly of support for non-governmental organisation active in international development.

In continuing to implement the *Strategy for International Development Cooperation, 1975-1980*, CIDA will increasingly direct its assistance to the poorest populations in developing countries.