

TRIBUTE TO SOVIET COSMONAUT

Prime Minister Pearson sent the following message to U.S.S.R. Prime Minister Kosygin on the death of Colonel Vladimir Komarov, who was killed on April 25 in the crash of his spacecraft:

I am deeply shocked and grieved to learn of tragic death of your valiant cosmonaut Komarov. He joins honoured ranks of those in all countries who venture fearlessly and who, if necessary, are willing to give their lives in great cause of man's peaceful exploration of his universe. Please extend to family and fellow workers of cosmonaut Komarov my sincere condolences and those of Canadian people.

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NORTHERN CANADA AS AN INVESTMENT

The economic development of Canada's North would enrich the country's economy and would add many thousands of square miles to the geographic wealth of the continent, Northern Affairs Minister Arthur Laing told the New York Society of Security Analysts recently. The North, he said, would supply the resources for the future and could extend the developed part of North America greatly. Research and systems analysis might be the keys to northern development, the Minister pointed out, and went on to say that companies who did their research and applied the newest technology would find a clear field and plenty of Government support.

Mr. Laing told the financial experts that, in its efforts to develop the North, the Canadian Government would assess requests for help on a long-term basis rather than on the merits of a single development. "We recognize," he said, "that the first industry in should not be asked to pay for all the transportation and communication facilities that the community as a whole will ultimately require."

RICH REWARDS

The Minister described the North as an area of many difficulties, but declared that it offered rich rewards. Citing Pine Point Mines Ltd. as an example, he told the New York group that many opportunities might be known years before they became operational. "There are similar opportunities," he added, "they await the entrepreneur who will turn them from opportunities to operations."

Mr. Laing went on to say that the Federal Government had recognized the goals of northern development and was prepared to consider the needs for railways and related transportation facilities. On the basis of the present level of activity, he said, the need for rail connections in the central Yukon and MacKenzie Valley would "have to be examined very carefully".

EXPANDING PROGRAMME

Private capital used in resource developments would have to be adequately rewarded, Mr. Laing said. His Department acknowledged that conventional sources of exploration capital might not be adequate

to meet the region's needs. "In order to achieve the national objective of the economic and social development of the North," he said, "Canadians are prepared to provide an expanding programme of direct financial support or indirect capital investment for the necessary social and basic facilities."

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CONSUMER INDEXES

Canada's consumer price index (1949=100) advanced 0.3 per cent to 146.5 at the beginning of March from 146.1 in February. The March 1967 index was 2.9 percent higher than the level of 142.4 in March last year. In the current period all components except food showed increases. The food component recorded a decrease.

FOOD

The food index in March declined 0.6 per cent to 143.3 from 144.1 in February. Lower prices were recorded for bread, some cereal products, coffee, tea, margarine, eggs, oranges, canned and frozen orange juice, raisins, canned pears and apple juice. Price declines were also noted for potatoes, cabbage, celery and lettuce, several cuts of beef, bacon, cottage roll and other meats including lamb, veal, wieners and meat loaf. Prices were higher for most dairy products, flour, cookies and cake mix, sugar, most fresh fruits except oranges, root vegetables, tomatoes, canned corn, pork rib chops and shoulder roast, and poultry.

SHELTER AND CLOTHING

The housing index advanced 0.5 per cent to 148.4 in March from 147.7 in February as a result of general increases in both the shelter and household operation components. The clothing index in March rose 1.3 per cent to 130.8 from 129.1 in February. Increases were recorded in most items of men's, women's and children's wearing apparel, piece-goods and clothing services. The transportation index rose 0.4 per cent to 115.6 in March from 115.0 in February. Scattered price increases for new automobiles, and advances in the prices of automobile repairs, tires, and Montreal taxi fares contributed to this rise.

HEALTH AND RECREATION

The health and personal care index edged upward 0.1 per cent to 185.2 from 185.1 in February, reflecting slightly higher prices for toilet soap and some other personal care items. The recreation and reading index moved up 0.1 per cent to 163.7 in March from 163.6 in the previous month. Small increases in prices reported for bicycles and television repairs moved the recreation component upwards, while the reading component remained unchanged. The tobacco and alcohol index rose 0.6 per cent to 127.5 from 126.8 in February, reflecting increased prices for cigarettes and tobacco in some cities and for beer and alcohol in Saskatchewan.