

CAMBODIAN BORDERS RESPECTED

Mr. Mitchell Sharp, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced recently that the Canadian Government had informed the Royal Cambodian Government that Canada recognized and respected the territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia within the limits of its present frontiers.

The Canadian declaration, made in keeping with the principles of the United Nations Charter, was issued to help meet the Cambodian Government's interest in obtaining international reassurances for its territorial integrity. The declaration was transmitted on September 2, 1968, to the Cambodian head of state, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, by Mr. R.V. Gorham, the Canadian Commissioner to the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Cambodia. It states: "It is a fundamental tenet of Canada's foreign policy that international relations must be conducted on the basis of the principles of the United Nations Charter, including, in particular, the obligations to settle international disputes by peaceful means and to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state. In accordance with these principles, Canada declares that it recognizes and respects the territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia within the limits of its present frontiers".

By issuing a declaration of this character as other states have done, the Canadian Government hopes that it may contribute to alleviating some of the tensions in the area. It is fully in keeping with Canada's desire to develop the cordial relations with Cambodia which have grown up over the years through Canada's membership on the ICSC in Cambodia and the United Nations and its Colombo Plan aid programmes in Cambodia.

MEDICAL TEAM TO VIETNAM

A Canadian medical team left Montreal recently for Qui Nhon, a Vietnamese city some 250 miles north of Saigon. It consists of 12 members: a specialist, an administrator, three physiotherapists, two nurses, two prosthetists, two occupational therapists and a secretary. The team will go first to Hong Kong, where it will spend a week taking part in a Pan-Pacific Conference on Physical Rehabilitation. Then it will head for Saigon, where it will spend at least a month learning about the Vietnamese rehabilitation services, which are administered by the National Institute of Rehabilitation and include, in addition to the centre in Qui Nhon, recently-opened institutions in Danang and Can-Tho.

The Qui Nhon centre, the construction of which is in its final stage, will be taken over by the Canadian team in October. It was built by Canada under the Canadian Government's external aid programme. The Montreal Institute of Rehabilitation was entrusted with the technical aspect of this \$2,500,000 Canadian project. The technical director is Dr. Gustave Gingras, who, as early as 1965, had been invited by the External Aid Office to study the possi-

bility of Canadian aid to Vietnam in the field of physical rehabilitation. About 60 per cent of the civilian victims of the Vietnam war are crippled and require the kind of medical care the Qui Nhon centre will be offering. The centre will serve 50 in-patients and 100 out-patients at any given time.

UN SOCIAL WELFARE MEET

An 11-member Canadian delegation under the leadership of the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. John Munro, is in attendance at the International Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare at United Nations headquarters in New York, which opened on September 3 and will close on September 12.

The conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, is the first international meeting of its kind ever held by social welfare ministers, and ministers and their senior advisers from 80 nations are attending.

It is considering ways to strengthen and expand social welfare programmes at the national level, particularly in developing countries, and the supporting programmes of the numerous United Nations organizations.

Canada enjoys an international reputation for its welfare programmes, such as the Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security pensions, the Guaranteed Income Supplement and family and youth allowances, as well as for its contributions over many years to international welfare.

Mr. Munro has expressed the hope that the conference, which was opened by U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, would provide leadership and impetus to social welfare development throughout the world.

MAIN ISSUES IN CANADA'S CONSTITUTIONAL DEBATE

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suffer no penalty for it. On the contrary, whether they speak English or French, they will be able to deal with their governments, educate their children and exercise their full legal rights in their own language. This will be a major expansion of the freedom of the individual Canadian.

RE-EXAMINATION OF CENTRAL INSTITUTIONS

Another priority is a re-examination of some of the central institutions of federalism. Could the Senate, by changes in its composition, method of selection, or jurisdiction, be made a more effective protector of regional or linguistic interests? Could the structure of the Supreme Court be strengthened as the keystone of Canadian federalism?

In my opinion these are issues which should have priority. Once we have examined them, we can turn to more contentious areas such as the distribution of legislative powers between Canada and the provinces. There are here a number of current pro-