

AID TO DISASTER VICTIMS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, has announced two special contributions, totalling \$30,000, to aid victims of recent natural disasters. In response to an appeal from the Red Cross, Canada will donate \$20,000 from its International Emergency Relief Appropriation for Korean flood relief and \$10,000 for Central American hurricane relief.

The contributions are being granted through the Canadian International Development Agency to the League of Red Cross Societies, Geneva, for use in the stricken areas.

Last September's torrential rains left 374 dead and over 100,000 homeless in the Southeastern Province of Korea. Earlier that month, hurricane *Francelia* inflicted heavy damage on parts of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, leaving many thousands homeless.

NATIVE CULTURES IMPERILLED

The Chief Ethnologist of the National Museum of Man in Ottawa fears that Canada may lose some of its traditional Indian and Eskimo cultures forever. Dr. Barrie Reynolds, who was recently appointed to the top ethnology post in the Museum, is "concerned about gathering and processing as much of traditional cultures of Indian and Eskimo peoples as possible". "It is fast disappearing and we need to record and to preserve as much as we can before it is too late," he says.

The 37-year-old ethnologist also considers that the National Museum of Man has "a definite responsibility to the ethnology departments of the various museums throughout Canada to encourage and develop high standards of curatorship and scholarship".

During 1968, Dr. Reynolds, as chief curator, played a major role in establishing the new Centennial Museum in Vancouver.

For 11 years before that, he was curator and director of Zambia's Livingstone Museum. In Zambia he did extensive field research, and his books *Magic, Divination and Witchcraft Among the Barotse of Northern Rhodesia* and *The Material Culture of the Peoples of Gwembele Valley*, cover two of the major "ethnographic salvage" projects on which he was engaged.

STRATFORD BOX-OFFICE RECORD

More than 377,000 people had attended the 1969 Stratford Festival by October 12. William T. Wylie, General Manager of the Festival said the new attendance figure was a record, some 29,000 higher than that of last year.

At the close of the regular season (extended this year to 20 weeks), before student matinees started in mid-September, the Festival Theatre had

played to 84.7 percent capacity audiences (compared to 82.3 percent for 1968). *Satyricon* and *Hadrian VII* had played to 83.4 percent audiences in the Avon Theatre, compared to last year's 76.2 percent for *The Seagull* and *Waiting for Godot*. Audiences at Sunday concerts stood at 72.7 percent (61.3 percent in 1968).

Chamber music attendance was down slightly, averaging 458 people a performance against 501 in 1968, and music at the Avon played to 42 percent capacity this year against 66.3 percent for the opera *Cinderella* in 1968.

Total earned income from box-office and tours exceeds \$1,900,000, a record figure and an increase of some \$400,000 over that recorded in 1968.

Mr. Wylie said that one of the most encouraging signs of support (besides the box-office receipts) was the more than 20 percent increase in the fund-raising campaign and the most rewarding 32 percent increase in membership. Stratford now has 6,800 people who have subscribed \$10 or more annually to become Festival members.

"With government grants frozen, we must look for increased box-office revenue and more intensified fund-raising to cover our costs, which increase every year," Mr. Wylie said. "Even if we were to repeat the entire 1969 season next year, our costs would automatically go up 7 per cent, and we will not tolerate any reduction in the quality of the Stratford Festival."

HOSPITALS IN 1968

The number of general and allied special hospitals in Canada decreased from 1,277 in 1967 to 1,269 in 1968. Rated-bed capacity in these hospitals showed an increase of 2.2 per cent, to 143,600, resulting in a ratio of 6.9 beds for each 1,000-population.

Adult and child patient-days in public hospitals increased 4.1 per cent to 38,302,700. Percentage occupancy in public hospitals climbed slightly to 81.0 per cent in 1968 from 80.2 per cent in 1967. The average length of stay for adults and children in public hospitals increased from 11.5 days to 11.7 days, while the average stay of newborn remained unchanged at 6.8 days.

Public hospitals in Canada employed over 285,400 persons in 1968, an increase of 4.5 per cent from the 1967 total. Paid hours of work per adult and child patient-day averaged 13.9 hours in 1968, unchanged from the 1967 average.

Revenue fund income in public hospitals was estimated at \$1,653,838,000, or \$43.18 per patient-day (\$38.61 in 1967).

Revenue fund expenditure amounted to \$1,719,064,000, or \$44.88 a patient-day, compared to \$40.38 in 1967. Gross salaries and wages accounted for over two-thirds (67.4 per cent) of total expenditure (66.7 per cent in 1967).