

Global "ear" monitors nuclear tests

Canada is among 40 countries preparing for the first major test of a global seismic information system designed to monitor underground nuclear testing throughout the world.

The two-month test is to begin in October and will include the United States and the Soviet Union, world leaders in underground nuclear explosions.

The new system is actually a communications network intended to gather seismic data from across the world and make it available to countries that suspect an underground blast has occurred.

If the system works, scientists and disarmament officials say it will advance discussions towards a treaty banning underground nuclear tests.

Under international agreements, only underground nuclear testing is permitted, with a limit of 150 kilotons, or ten times the strength of the Hiroshima bomb. Because seismic data can be used to distinguish earthquakes from major underground nuclear explosions, an international exchange of this information would allow countries to monitor nuclear testing.

The October experiment is an attempt to determine if a satisfactory seismic means can be found to verify testing. If so, progress could be made towards a treaty banning all testing.

The subject of a total test ban is expected to be discussed at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Switzerland, this summer.

Help for India's forests

Canada and India have signed an agreement covering an interest-free loan of \$44 million for co-operation in a major project of social forestry in Andhra Pradesh.

The loan, administered through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), will provide budgetary assistance over five years to the social forestry project implemented by the forest department of the Andhra Pradesh government. It will be complemented by a \$2-million grant for consultancy, advisory and training services. The terms of the loan are zero per cent interest, with a ten-year grace period and a 50-year repayment period.

The social forestry project will help farmers and villagers meet their basic needs by providing them with planting

stock and technical services, as well as involving them in the management of the forest lands. It will serve to slow the pace of deforestation, supply domestic needs for fuelwood, small timber, poles and fodder, and provide employment in planting, harvesting and marketing for the rural population. By the end of the project, it is anticipated that 54 000 hectares will be planted; sufficient seedlings will have been distributed to plant a further 71 000 hectares; and 13 000 hectares of degraded areas will be reforested.

The signing of the loan agreement is the latest element in Canada's long-standing program of development assistance to India. Since 1951, Canada has provided over \$1.7 billion for co-operation in sectors ranging from energy to telecommunications to agriculture. Commitments have grown steadily over the past several years with disbursements in the 1983-84 fiscal year expected to total \$50 million. Much of the program has been directed toward collaborating with India to meet its agricultural requirements. In this respect, Canada is currently providing assistance to the India Council of Agricultural Research all-India coordinated project for dryland agriculture, and recently also signed an agreement to supply rapeseed canola oil and technical assistance to the National Dairy Development Board vegetable oils project.

Canadian office furniture a big seller in Britain

Canadian office furniture is big business in Britain. Montreal's All Steel Canada Limited, through its British agents, Wiltshier Contract Furniture, recently established a new division in London to fully promote the Canadian company's highly successful office furniture systems.

The new division, All Steel Systems Furniture, displays through an office complex in London's Covent Garden, the Canadian manufacturer's latest lines in screen-based furniture, freestanding desks, work stations and comprehensive storage facilities.

According to Erol Russo, All Steel Canada's director of international sales, the advanced styling of the All Steel office furniture has been largely responsible for its selection and installation in the offices of many banks and commercial enterprises throughout Britain.

The two companies say the volume of business has been "most satisfying" and expect sales to "increase considerably" as a result of the new operation.

EDC reports record earnings

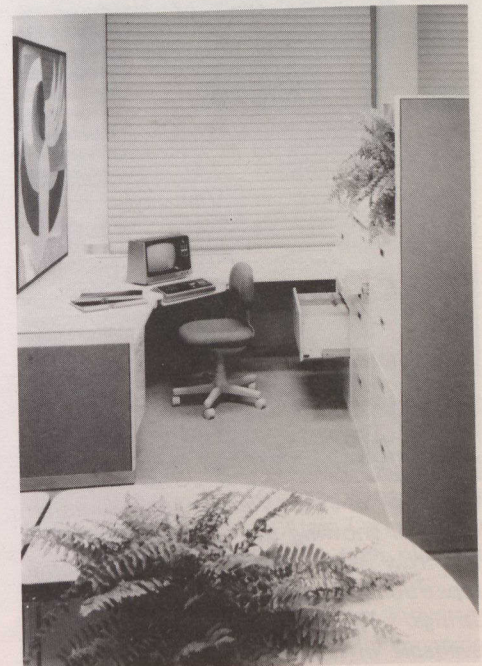
The Export Development Corporation (EDC) provided a record \$4.57 billion worth of services to Canadian exporters in 1983. It also maintained its unbroken record of profitability by recording net earnings for the year of \$2 million compared to \$1.1 million in 1982.

In his annual report as chairman of the Board and president of the Crown corporation, Sylvain Cloutier said that EDC's insurance and guarantees totalled a record \$3.9 billion in 1983, compared to \$2.3 billion in 1982.

Export financing totalled \$969 million in 1983, compared to \$2.5 billion in 1982 when one transaction, a sale of subway cars to the United States, accounted for \$921.6 million of the total.

The five leading product groups supported by EDC's financing services were engineering and trading services, followed by communications and electronic equipment, electrical equipment, ship-building construction and transportation equipment.

The five leading commodity groups supported by Export Development Corporation insurance and guarantees were services, followed by forestry products; minerals, metals and chemicals; other manufactured products, and machinery.



Desks and storage units are available in a variety of sizes, colours and finishes.