

second session in Nairobi later this month will be asked to approve resources for the exposition component, which is designed to give the conference a solution-oriented character.

Canada the host

Canada's responsibility as the host nation covers the organization and administration of all aspects of the event over and above those that would have been the responsibility of the United Nations if the event had been held at the United Nations headquarters. The Government of British Columbia and the City of Vancouver are also fully involved in the hosting function, and a host committee with representation from the three levels of government which meets periodically in Vancouver, and has formed a variety of sub-committees to advise on various aspects of the hosting of the conference/exposition.

To carry out the host responsibilities of the Government of Canada, I have established a host secretariat within the Department of External Affairs. Executive responsibility for the national hosting arrangements will rest with this secretariat, which will have a management organization covering installations, communications, conference services, design development and public affairs. Host secretariat liaison officers will be placed in the United Nations secretariat in New York and in Vancouver.

I am very pleased by the active involvement of the Government of British Columbia and the City of Vancouver with the Government of Canada in the hosting function and I am confident that the three levels of government will succeed in creating a meaningful and memorable venue in Vancouver for what will be one of the most important international conferences ever held in Canada.

Candu nuclear power plant — agreement with Argentina

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has signed a financing agreement to lend \$129.5 million to the Government of Argentina to support the sale by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL), to Comision Nacional de Energia Atomica (CNEA), of equipment and services for a 600-MW Candu

nuclear power plant. The sale was won in competition with German and United States bidders.

The Argentine project is situated on the Tercero River near Cordoba, which is about 420 miles northwest of Buenos Aires.

The EDC loan, which will finance 90 per cent of the cost of Canadian equipment and services for the project, will be repaid in 30 semi-annual instalments commencing six months after commissioning of the plant, which is scheduled for 1979.

German NATO troops train in Canada

More than 200 military support staff from the Federal Republic of Germany arrived in Winnipeg, Manitoba, at the end of March to organize training for German armoured and artillery units at Canadian Forces Base Shilo in that province.

For the next two weeks, tanks, guns and equipment were transported by rail to Shilo from Quebec City to support the training program. The equipment arrived in Canada by ship from Germany in late March and was moved by some 300 rail cars.

The training runs from May to October each year under terms of a ten-year agreement, whereby 16 battalion-sized groups will train for three-week periods, adding up to more than 5,000 men a year.

The program is financed completely by the Federal Republic of Germany, including costs for Canadian Forces personnel supporting the training. Over 80 civilian jobs have been created, including kitchen help, typists, and other support staff. Also more than \$3 million is being spent on construction to build hangars, prepare parking areas and renovate offices, quarters, and kitchens.

A German staff of 40, who will remain permanently at Shilo to provide continuity and update training schedules, includes administrative and support personnel and medical staff to operate an eight-bed ward at the base hospital.

German equipment includes armoured vehicles and guns as well as over 100 wheeled vehicles.

Training will begin with the arrival of troops May 9 and 11. The majority are recent recruits experiencing their first practical range training.

Federal funds for Saskatchewan iron and steel industry

Prime Minister Trudeau recently announced major support by the Federal Government for an integrated iron and steel complex in Saskatchewan.

The Prime Minister and Saskatchewan Premier Allan Blakeney have signed an agreement in principle for a program expected to result in an investment of about \$120 million. The Federal Government has pledged up to \$35 million in direct assistance while Saskatchewan's commitment is for up to \$10 million in direct assistance.

The Federal Government may also consider loans and loan guarantees as required. Saskatchewan will make available up to \$50 million in loans and guarantees as required.

"This five-year iron and steel industrial program may well create about 1,700 direct jobs but even more importantly it will broaden Saskatchewan's economic base," the Prime Minister said.

"Saskatchewan will be building a much-expanded iron and steel complex to take advantage of growing industrial growth in Western Canada — industrial growth encouraged by the Federal Government, and industrial growth requiring ever more iron and steel."

Negotiation of details will follow the agreement in principle which the Prime Minister has now signed and which has been sent to Premier Blakeney in Regina.

Such details, the elements of a comprehensive iron and steel development program, will include: an iron-ore exploration program in Saskatchewan; market and/or feasibility studies on an iron and steel complex in the province; an ore-reduction plant; the expansion and diversification of the steel industry in Saskatchewan; and the infrastructure for an iron and steel complex.

The agreement, which will end in March 1979, provides that an extension may be negotiated.

An expanded iron and steel industry in Saskatchewan would complement new federally-encouraged developments in oil and gas, petrochemicals, pipelines and other projects now coming to fruition in the West, the Prime Minister said.