German industrialists tour Canadian businesses

Representatives of 11 companies from the Federal Republic of Germany were in Canada from May 20 to June 4 to gain first-hand knowledge of Canadian industrial capabilities.

Kraus Maffei of Munich, the company that supplied Canada with the *Leopard* tank, its main sub-contractors and associated companies are now in a better position to locate Canadian companies to bid on various manufactured product requirements to fulfil the offset agreement between Kraus Maffei and the Canadian government.

Kruas Maffei committed itself to place at least $115 million over ten years in offset purchases in Canada when the Canadian Armed Forces bought 130 *Leopard* tanks in 1976. The company, however, has already satisfied 75 per cent of its obligations under this program, with the purchase of $86 million of Canadian manufactured goods and services.

The cross-Canada tour, said a spokesman for the Department of External Affairs, was "highly successful".

Firms supply earth stations to U.S.

Two Canadian companies have been chosen to supply satellite earth-station equipment to United Satellite Television in the United States.

General Instrument of New York has announced that its Canadian subsidiary General Instrument of Toronto and SED of Saskatoon are supplying earth-station design services and components to General Instrument, which is investing in the United Satellite Television venture. The U.S. market is expected to demand large numbers of these earth stations over the next two years. General Instrument also announced that it has given its Canadian subsidiary, with SED, the world product mandate for supply of these earth stations.

The earth stations will receive signals from satellites operating in the 14/12 gigahertz frequency bands. Because high-powered satellites — pioneered by Canada with its *Hermes* satellite — can deliver signals in these bands, the receiving dishes can be as small as one metre or less in diameter.

In a related development, GTE Satellite Corporation of the U.S. signed an agreement recently with Telesat Canada for access to ten of Telesat's *Anik C-1* transponders (see *Canada Weekly* dated March 17, 1982). The agreement, which is subject to Canadian and United States government regulatory approvals would enable United Satellite Television to deliver four channels of basic television and pay-TV programming for use by cable systems, MATV systems and direct transmission in rural areas. The service would be delivered *via* a scrambled signal requiring a special decoder.

Scientists study space situation

Scientists and researchers from around the world gathered in Ottawa for the twenty-fourth annual Committee on Space Research Conference held from May 17 to June 2.

The Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) is concerned with basic research on space, using instruments aboard rockets, satellites and balloons. Thirteen international scientific unions and the national institutions of some 35 member nations make up COSPAR. The conference included 200 half-day working sessions with much of this activity revolving around the fifth International Symposium on Solar-Terrestrial Physics, which examines how sun and earth interact.

Amongst other things, COSPAR delegates discussed: processes behind the northern lights; the "solar wind" that streams outward at all times from the sun; the sun itself, now in a period of strong activity; and how artificial satellites and other spacecraft may change the delicate environment of near-space. They also examined air circulation in the earth's atmosphere as observed from space.

Dr. L. Kerwin, president of the National Research Council of Canada (left) *listens to J.F. Denisse, president of COSPAR and a member of France's l'Académie des sciences* (right), *at the opening session.*

Nutrition information provided

Agriculture Canada and Health and Welfare Canada have set up service that will provide information on the nutritional content of Canadian foods.

The data for the Canadian Nutrient File was compiled from the Nutrition Canada Survey and updated data from the United States Department of Agriculture. The information, placed on a computer tape, provides a complete nutrient profile for many foods available on the market.

Sophisticated package

The file is a sophisticated package of information that will be revised constantly so it reflects the most current data.

There are now about 3 200 foods in the Canadian Nutrient File, and about 84 000 nutrient analyses have been carried out on these foods.

Care is being taken by researchers in making their analyses to ensure that the differences between Canadian and American foods is taken into account. Owing to different grading systems, for example, fat levels in beef differ.

It is expected that the tape will be used mainly by food and nutrition researchers, food manufacturers and food processors, and by hospital dietitians who need to know if the diets they design are providing all the necessary nutrients to their patients. The tape will provide only the data and users of the information will be required to develop their own programs.

Requests led to listing

The initial decision to compile a complete listing of foods and their nutrients was made in 1979 in response to numerous requests received by the federal government for up-to-date information.

At the same time, the U.S. Department of Agriculture was issuing a new, updated version of its *Handbook No. 8*, a catalogue of foods and their nutritional values. That information is still being supplemented, and as it becomes available the Canadian Nutrient File will be updated as well.