

special conditions regarding pilotage requirements for Soviet vessels entering Tasu Sound for loading and unloading purposes.

Under the original agreement, the Soviet fleet voluntarily gave up fishing on Big Bank, where heavy runs of salmon and herring occur. In return, they were permitted to fish in an area of comparable size within the 12-mile limit off the Queen Charlotte Islands — an area that has never been fished to any extent by Canadians.

However, the most important advantage given to the Soviet fleet was the reopening of the Port of Vancouver to their supply ships, a privilege taken away in March 1970.

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#### **Federal financial assistance to Atlantic provinces**

The Federal Government has offered a grant of \$1,550,000 to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as assistance in reinforcing the electrical-transmission connection between these two provinces, and is also studying the possibility of providing financial support to Prince Edward Island for an underwater cable connection between the island province's electrical system and the Maritime Power Pool.

These interconnections are compatible with the findings of the Federal-Provincial Working Committee on Long Distance Transmissions that recognized in the Trans-Canada Grid Study of 1967 the distinct benefits from strong regional transmission interconnections. The committee recommended that stronger regional ties should be seriously considered that could ultimately lead to a national transmission grid.

The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Mr. Donald S. Macdonald, and Regional Economic Expansion Minister, Mr. Don Jamieson, stated that, before the money could be granted to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the Federal Government must be satisfied that the two provinces were prepared to develop procedures designed to ensure adequate co-ordination in the planning of their electrical systems on a regional basis.

A request was received in July 1972, from the Nova Scotia Power Commission, supported by a letter

from the New Brunswick Electrical Power Commission, for federal financial support for the interconnection. At present there is a 138 kV system between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick that is inadequate because of the growing energy needs of both provinces.

A proposal was made for an interconnection of 345 kV that is more than enough for the immediate future needs of the provinces, rather than a lower 230 kV system that could handle the required increased load for a limited time. The extra power capability would provide much more flexibility and capacity for an interchange of electrical power but, at the same time, would provide difficulties for the financing of the construction of the line. With no support from the Federal Government, the two utilities would probably construct a lower capacity reinforcement to meet immediate needs.

The request for financial assistance from the Premier of Prince Edward Island will be given sympathetic consideration, following a more detailed examination on cost assessment and benefits. At the moment Prince Edward Island is totally dependent on oil for power generation and, because of the small size of the generating facilities on the island, electric power rates are higher than most other provinces.

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#### **Fireworks only partially banned**

Not all kinds of fireworks have been banned in Canada, according to a recent statement issued in Ottawa by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. Clarifying new regulations introduced last September, the Department emphasizes that only those fireworks considered very dangerous have been banned for sale to the general public.

"Firecrackers", defined as fireworks whose sole purpose is to create noise, have been banned for sale to the general public. This classification is composed of all noise-making firecrackers, including "ladyfingers".

"Display fireworks", including rockets, "bombardos", "barrages" and "bombshells", continue to be

restricted. Responsible organizations and individuals may obtain fireworks of this type provided they have the necessary local authorization and that they file a guarantee with their supplier that the display will be supervised by a competent person.

"Family fireworks", have not been banned, and are still available for purchase at retail by any person 18 years of age and over. Fireworks of this kind, also known as "shop goods", include "roman candles", "sparklers" and "pinwheels".

It is noted that even though these fireworks have not been banned by the Federal Government, their sale and use may be restricted by provincial or municipal law.

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#### **Air-pollution emission inventory**

A Canada-wide inventory of five major air-pollutant emissions has been completed by Environment Canada. Announcing the findings of the study, Environment Minister Jack Davis noted that it was the first comprehensive inventory of its kind in Canada.

The pollutants covered in the inventory are sulphur oxides, particulates, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons. The information has been classified into five major categories of sources: industrial processes, fuel combustion in stationary sources, transportation sources, solid-waste disposal and miscellaneous sources. The study is based at regular intervals. This updating, combined with continuous measurement of air-pollution levels by surveillance networks throughout Canada, will indicate what progress has been made in the control of air pollution.

Mr. Davis noted that transportation accounted for 57 per cent of total air-pollution emissions of 31.2 million tons. The Federal Government is actively engaged in the control of motor-vehicle emissions. "The inventory further confirms our concerns about air pollution from this source," Mr. Davis declared.

The inventory also shows that one industrial sector — primary copper and nickel — accounted for 4.5 million tons, or 14 per cent, of the total number of emissions in Canada.