

Gabonese Minister visits

The Minister and Secretary General of the government of the Republic of Gabon Louis-Gaston Mayila signed a memorandum of understanding establishing a Canada-Gabon bilateral commission during a visit to Canada, October 20-31.

The memorandum was signed on behalf of the Canadian government by Minister of Regional Economic Expansion Pierre De Bané. The bilateral commission will promote relations between Canada and Gabon in areas of mutual interest.

During his visit, Mr. Mayila also met with the Minister of State for Small Business Charles Lapointe and with officials of the Canadian International Development Agency and other government departments.

The Gabonese Minister's visit also included meetings with business leaders in Toronto and Montreal. Mr. Mayila also met with Mayor Jean Drapeau in Montreal and later travelled to James Bay to tour the hydro-electric project there. During a visit to Quebec City the Minister met with Quebec government officials.



Mr. Mayila (right) signs the memorandum of understanding establishing a Canada-Gabon bilateral commission. Mr. De Bané (centre) and Adolphe Monsard, director of the Eastern European Bureau of the Gabonese Department of Foreign Affairs (left), look on.

Satellite test centre opens

A national centre for testing and assembling large communications satellites and aerospace subsystems was recently opened by Communications Minister Francis Fox.

The David Florida Laboratory of the Department of Communications in Nepean outside Ottawa has just undergone a two-year, \$18-million expansion and upgrading program. The lab now offers Canadian industry a world-class facility to enhance its ability to compete for both domestic and export satellite and aerospace system sales.

Completion of the laboratory is part of the government's longstanding objective of developing a Canadian prime contractor capability for the supply of satellites and related space hardware, Mr. Fox noted in a brief address to 100 industry leaders and senior government officials attending the opening.

The laboratory now has a thermal/vacuum chamber big enough to handle satellites compatible with the U.S. space shuttle orbiter and enlarged vibration and anechoic chamber test facilities.

Canadian industry will pay for its use of the David Florida Laboratory on a rental basis. The first satellite *Anik C-2*, is scheduled to be checked out in the facility, in a few weeks.

Former Cabinet Minister dies

Judy LaMarsh, who served as federal Health Minister and Secretary of State under Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, died of cancer in Toronto, October 28, at the age of 55.

Miss LaMarsh, a colourful and controversial minister who served in the Pearson administration between 1963 and 1968, was the only woman in the Cabinet and the second woman Cabinet minister in Canadian history.

As Health Minister and later Secretary of State, Miss LaMarsh is remembered for implementing the Canada Pension Plan, universal medicare and the Broadcasting Act, which regulates radio and television stations and networks in Canada. In 1967, she planned and presided over the federal government's celebrations of Canada's centennial.

Miss LaMarsh was born in Chatham, Ontario and as a child moved with her



Miss LaMarsh receives Order of Canada in Toronto hospital.

family to Niagara Falls, Ontario. During the Second World War, she enlisted in the Canadian Women's Army Corps and after intensive training was assigned as a translator of captured Japanese documents. She later took advantage of education benefits for veterans, taking a bachelor of arts degree at the University of Toronto and then studying law at Osgoode Hall Law School. In 1950, she joined her father's law practice in Niagara Falls.

In 1959, Miss LaMarsh was defeated in her bid for the Liberal nomination in the riding of Niagara. But in 1960 when the Liberal incumbent died she won the nomination and was elected to Parliament the same year.

Miss LaMarsh was active as a writer, lecturer, broadcaster, lawyer and university teacher after leaving politics in 1968. Last July, Governor-General Edward Schreyer bestowed on her the insignia of the Order of Canada for her years of public service.

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau paid tribute to Miss LaMarsh saying that he had "vivid memories" of her as Health Minister developing Canada's social security program, which he said is now "the envy of the world", and as Secretary of State as "the major impresario" of Canada's centennial celebrations in 1967. Mr. Trudeau also described her as a successful and respected lawyer, a committed champion of women's rights, a best-selling author and "a deeply involved liberal partisan".