

Auxiliary programs are also being planned for the future when, in its final form, the new system will trace stock items through transit and repair and close tab will be kept on items from suppliers right through to users. Aircraft, ship and vehicle-repair programs will be programmed into the computer's memory, reducing the risk of bottlenecks in repair work.

With an IBM computer at its heart, and terminals at each base and station in Canada's armed forces by mid-1975, inventory control will be almost totally automated.

The Director General of Supply Services at National Defence Headquarters, Ottawa, Brigadier-General J.B. Tucker, says "it has taken nine years of research, development, innovation, dedication and hard work to bring this new system to life...." "The successful operation of any military force depends in large measure on having just the right amount of the right materiel wherever and whenever it is needed," he added.

Canada helps Pakistan find fuel

It was announced recently by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, that Canada would provide Pakistan with \$6 million in loan and grant funds to support a nation-wide oil and natural gas exploration program.

Pakistan has been hard hit by skyrocketing oil prices. It imports about 85 per cent of its oil requirements, and the cost this year is expected to climb to \$350 million, almost five times the amount paid last year.

To reduce its reliance on oil imports, the Pakistan Government has taken steps to encourage exploration. It has

doubled the budget of the Oil and Gas Development Corporation, established in 1961 to find and develop oil and natural gas deposits, and offered incentives to private companies to increase their exploratory efforts.

There is evidence that Pakistan may have large reserves of oil and natural gas. Studies have shown that nearly 80 per cent of its land area has the type of sedimentary basins which in other parts of the world contain oil and gas deposits. Exploration is hampered, however, by a lack of the sophisticated equipment required to provide sufficient information on deposits to interest private companies in bidding for exploration and drilling licences.

The Canadian assistance will help solve this problem by providing modern digital seismic data-acquisition equipment and a data-processing unit that will allow engineers to obtain and analyze information on geological formations. The equipment will be purchased through a \$5-million loan made available from allocations of the Canadian International Development Agency. A CIDA grant of \$1 million will be provided to train Pakistani engineers, geologists and geophysicists in the use of the equipment.

Air-cushion craft tries out over ice

A unique trial supply-operation to communities along the lower North Shore of the St. Lawrence River was announced recently by Federal Transport Minister Jean Marchand and Quebec Transport Minister Raymond Mailloux.

The six-month project will make use of a *Voyageur*-type air-cushion vehicle, similar to the Ministry of Transport's ACV, which carried out test supply operations last year in the Mackenzie River Delta. It will involve 16 communities between Sept-Iles and the Quebec-Labrador border.

The ACV is designed to deliver cargo from one port to another and to operate shuttle services from cargo-ships in open water to ice-bound ports which otherwise would have their supply link cut by ice.

The Federal and Quebec Governments hope the trials will show the advantages of this type of craft, which can operate over ice as well as water.

Currently the supplying of North Shore communities is carried out by conventional vessels, which are often hampered by ice conditions.

Actual operations will be conducted by Agence Maritime Inc. of Montreal, which, along with the ACV manufacturer, Bell Aerospace Canada, will also contribute financially to the project. The total budget will amount to approximately \$1 million, including federal and provincial funding of \$450,000 and \$300,000 respectively.

Average income 1973

Relying on 1973 preliminary estimates, Statistics Canada reports that average family income (total money income before taxes or other deductions) rose from \$11,300 in 1972 to \$12,532 in 1973, an 11 per cent increase. If this is adjusted for changes in the consumer price index, the gain was 3 per cent.

The average income for single persons showed a greater gain for the same period with an increase of 14 per cent, an increase of 6 per cent when adjusted. Their average income rose to \$5,210 in 1973 from \$4,572 in 1972.

Average incomes for all units, families and single people combined, rose to \$10,574 in 1973 from \$9,525 in 1972, an increase of 11 per cent.

The proportion of family units receiving income of less than \$5,000 fell from 30.1 per cent in 1972 to 26.2 per cent in 1973. For those receiving an income of \$15,000 or more, the proportion increased to 22.9 per cent from 16.7 per cent.

The average income for individuals rose 9 per cent from \$5,828 in 1972 to \$6,358 in 1973. For men, the average income rose 9 per cent, from \$7,633 to \$8,310. For women, it rose 11 per cent, from \$3,243 to \$3,591. This covers persons 14 and over with any income other than primarily military pay or allowance.

The figures represent preliminary estimates prepared from data collected by a sample survey of 35,000 households taken in 1974. These estimates — which excluded households in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, on Indian reserves and in military camps, as well as the institutional population — are thus subject to revision and the usual sample survey errors of response and non-response.

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