

ment ordered these rings withdrawn from stores because of the danger to babies. The rule now is that the fluid inside this type of ring be made sterile and that the container be made of material that is safe to suck.

Playpens made of wide-mesh plastic or string are also suspected of being hazards for infants. If the mesh is too wide, the baby may put its head through or get its limbs tangled and trapped.

Cribs with wooden slats (a safe width is no more than three inches) should have a bumper placed inside the crib between the mattress and wooden bars.

To reduce infant mortality and injury, the Department has already moved to control lead paint that manufacturers use on children's toys and furniture.

ARCTIC PIPELINE RECCE

It was announced recently by Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, that Arctic natural-gas reserves discovered by Panarctic Oils Ltd. were sufficient to justify a reconnaissance this summer of two potential 2,200 to 2,500-mile pipeline routes from Cornwallis Island in the central Arctic archipelago to eastern markets.

The Minister said that, though the total volume of natural-gas reserves required to justify a pipeline have not yet been proven, discoveries were already sufficient to plan an aerial reconnaissance of two possible routes during the summer.

Panarctic began this reconnaissance early in June, using aircraft and helicopters to study possible feeder routes *via* the islands, Boothia Peninsula and along both the east and west coasts of Hudson Bay to a terminal point in Eastern Canada.

SECOND BIG NORTHERN GAS FIND

Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, has confirmed the finding of a second major natural-gas well by Panarctic Oils Ltd. on the Drake Point structure in the northeast of Melville Island in the Canadian Arctic archipelago.

Mr. Chrétien noted that Panarctic planned to drill other exploratory wells on northeast Melville Island this year and was optimistic of further successes in the western region of the Arctic Islands.

The discovery ratio being maintained under Panarctic's exploratory drilling program that began in 1968, which has resulted in three gas discoveries and two oil discoveries, together with evidence of the extent of several of these reservoirs, augured well, said Mr. Chrétien, for reaching the large threshold volumes required to warrant exploitation possibly late in this decade.

Steps will be taken to inform all communities along the proposed routes of details of the air-reconnaissance plan. As these are only preliminary surveys, sufficient time will be available for consultations with Northern residents.

Cornwallis Island is approximately 2,100 miles north-west of Montreal and 170 miles west of the northern tip of Baffin Island.

PREVIOUS STRIKES

To date, Panarctic has made three major gas discoveries: at Drake Point on the Sabine Peninsula of Melville Island, on King Christian Island and at Kristoffer Bay on Ellef Ringnes Island. Gas showings, along with recoveries of oil, were recently encountered at Thor Island about 50 miles north of King Christian and at Romulus Lake on the Fosheim Peninsula of Ellesmere Island.

Panarctic has identified, and conducted geologic and seismograph surveys on, a number of similar geologic features, and during the coming year will drill test-wells on a number of highly prospective locations.

Panarctic now has five drilling rigs under contract and is arranging for a sixth. Each rig can drill from two to three wells a year.

NORTHERN FIREFIGHTERS

A 64-man native firefighting force is to be established in the Northwest Territories with equipment and mobility that will enable it to react immediately in the event of forest fires anywhere in the Territories, it was announced recently by Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

The creation of the new force grew out of the disastrous experience of 1971, when 330 forest fires swept the Mackenzie District of the Northwest Territories. Six firefighters were killed and 2 million acres of woodland were destroyed.

KEY CREWS

Under the new organization, eight crews of eight men will be located at key centres in the Mackenzie Valley and south of Great Slave Lake, each with portable firefighting equipment and helicopters to transport it swiftly to wherever it is needed. A fleet of water-bombers consisting of *Canso* and *Twin-Otter* aircraft will back up the force and be on call as required.

Arrangements are being made with the Alberta Forest Service to assist in the training of the new force. It is planned to have a safety and training officer assigned to the group to continue the training when the men return to their stations.

In the case of major fires, the support of local volunteers will be sought as before but, with the increased strength and mobility of the new group, it is hoped that the need for volunteers will be minimized.