

Alaska Pipeline inquiry

Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Warren Allmand has announced the establishment of a board of inquiry on the socio-economic aspects of the proposed Alaska Highway gas pipeline.

Terms of reference

The board, chaired by Kenneth Lysyk, Dean of Law at the University of British Columbia, will prepare an initial socio-economic assessment of the construction and operation of the proposed pipeline. The terms of reference call upon the board to identify: the principal socio-economic implications of the Alaska Highway Pipeline proposal; the attitude to the proposal of the inhabitants of the region it would affect; possible deficiencies in the application of the proponent; and possible courses of action that might be taken to meet the major concerns which are identified and to correct any major deficiencies in the application.

The decision to establish the inquiry, which began work on May 1, was taken following consultations with the Yukon Territorial Government and the Council for Yukon Indians.

The environmental impact of the pipeline will be assessed separately by a panel established by the Minister of the Environment under the Government's environmental assessment and review process.

The inquiry is to submit its report, including the preliminary impact statement, by August 1 so that its findings may be taken into account by the Government in decisions it expects to take concerning northern pipelines early in autumn.

Mr. Allmand said if the Alaska Highway application should receive approval, the Government would establish a further inquiry to assist it in developing terms and conditions for the construction and operation of the line.

He noted the report of the Berger Commission was scheduled to be made public early in May, and that recommendations of the National Energy Board were expected to be received in July. In the U.S., existing legislation required that the Federal Power Commission submit its report to the President by May 1, and that the Presi-

dent's recommendations concerning the transmission of Alaska natural gas be submitted to the Congress by September 1.

Decision in August

Mr. Allmand said the Government of Canada expected to make a decision in principle during the month of August. "In the event that the decision should be in favour of the Alaska Highway Pipeline, it will be essential for the Government to move ahead promptly to complete the analysis of the pipeline's impact, and to develop the appropriate terms and conditions."

Mr. Allmand noted the proposed Alaska Highway line would traverse approximately 500 miles in the Yukon,

and would pass near six communities with populations of 150 or more. Other communities would also be affected to some degree.

"Although decisions concerning these pipelines are expected to be taken by late summer, a number of complex matters will remain to be worked out over the ensuing months," Mr. Allmand said. "Whichever pipeline may be built, the schedules do not call for construction to begin until several years after the approval in principle. I therefore am confident that there will be ample time for the Government to act upon the Inquiry's report and to develop detailed terms and conditions for the Alaska Highway line if this should prove necessary."

Portuguese army elements train with Canadian forces in Germany

Following the restoration of Government rule in Portugal, several member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization agreed to assist the Portuguese Armed Forces with their armed forces' restructuring plans.

One example of this co-operative effort among the Allies is the series of joint training and exercise activities in which Portuguese army personnel have recently participated with the 4th Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group near Lahr in the south of the Federal Republic of Germany. Their participation followed a joint Canadian-Portuguese agreement signed at NATO headquarters last September, under

which contingents of Portuguese army junior officers and NCOs were attached to the Brigade during the latter's annual concentration in the Hohenfels Training Area north of Regensburg.

Four groups of Portuguese military have taken part in the training, including Exercise Donau Safari involving both Canadian and West German forces. In addition, other Portuguese detachments have participated in a combat Leaders' Course and have been attached to Canadian units, including the Royal Canadian Dragoons, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, and the Royal 22nd Regiment, all of which are based in the Lahr area.



Map reading. (Left) 1st Sgt Benedito Simoe from Santa Margarita with Cpl.

Ghislain Francoeur, from Edmonston, New Brunswick.