

To attain these objectives, the Plan envisages:

- i) expansion of generating capacity by about 8,000 MW using gas and steam turbines;
- ii) installation of over 6,000 km of transmission and sub-transmission lines;
- iii) distribution of power to 600,000 new consumers;
- iv) a comprehensive administrative and resource-development program to develop skilled Saudi manpower, the establishment of information systems, and the capability for further developmental studies.

While these ambitious projects would seem to provide immense scope for Canadian involvement, it should be remembered that a considerable amount of the basic infrastructure (generating plants and the backbone high-voltage transmission lines) are in place, particularly in the Eastern Province and that, in some other regions, the adoption of European standards closes the door on many Canadian manufacturers. In the Eastern region, opportunities will centre on supplying high-tension cable and significant quantities of all types of materials (low-tension cables, switches, transformers, poles, and meters) related to distribution, as there is a major emphasis toward electrification of rural villages. Generating capacity here is judged adequate for the foreseeable future, although one source did state there would be some demand for gas and steam turbines, given a forecast three-fold increase in peak demands by 1990.

In the other regions (Central, South and West), the situation, while less clear, would seem to offer more optimism, simply because there, regional SCECO's are less well-established. SCECO South and West may offer the best opportunities (SCECO Centre having opted for European standards).

SCECO South, for example, is just embarking on a huge development project worth about \$15 to 20 billion over the next 10 years. This region will, in all probability, be the next centre of growth (after Jubail and Yanbu) with the cities of Abha and Khamis Mushayt being joined into one large city of 350,000 persons, and new industries, colleges and medical facilities being established. Opportunities here appear to cover the whole spectrum of equipment for generation, transmission and distribution.