

Canada participates in international oil emergency test

Canada is participating in a 21-nation international "dry run" of emergency oil-allocation systems, Energy Minister Marc Lalonde has announced.

The objective is to test the mechanisms designed to ensure equitable distribution of available oil supplies in the event of off-shore oil supply shortages. The test which began October 1 will last until December.

The Canadian portion of this international test will be directed by the Energy Supplies Allocation Board (ESAB), a federal agency created under the authority of the Energy Supplies Emergency Act (1979).

The board has the mandate to prepare and administer the regulations controlling the allocation of available oil and petroleum products in Canada in the event of a national emergency caused by supply shortages. Its planning is carried out in close consultation with the provincial governments and the petroleum industry.

At the international level, the test is organized and co-ordinated by the International Energy Agency (IEA), grouping

21 major oil-importing countries, with headquarters in Paris. The IEA is a constituent body of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The test involves 45 major international and national oil companies as well as several hundred of their affiliates in addition to the member country agencies. Eighteen Canadian companies will take part with ESAB in conducting Canada's position of the test. This is the third test of this type to be conducted by the IEA, and the most extensive to date.

On an international scale, allocation of oil supplies in the event of an emergency, calls for assessment of the needs of the member countries stemming from analysis of the pre-emergency data they regularly provide to the IEA. Within each country, the goal is to direct available supplies to consumers so as to minimize the disruption caused by the emergency, and Canada will be taking full advantage of this opportunity to test its own emergency programs.

Refugee relief provided

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is contributing \$1.15 million in cash to international relief organizations for humanitarian assistance to refugees in Southeast Asia, acting CIDA President Margaret Catley-Carlson has announced.

A grant of \$500,000 is going to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to help pay for chartering an aircraft to shuttle relief supplies between Bangkok in Thailand and Phnom Penh in Kampuchea. Another \$500,000 will be granted to UNICEF towards its relief activities in Kampuchea and in refugee camps in Thailand.

The remaining \$150,000 will be provided in response to a joint appeal by the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies for relief operations among the more than 220,000 Indochinese refugees from Vietnam and Laos scattered throughout countries of first asylum in Southeast Asia. The new grants bring the total given by Canada for relief in Southeast Asia to \$18.5 million including more than \$1 million in provincial and private donations.

Mexican minister leads trade mission on visit to Canada

A Mexican trade mission, led by the Minister of Patrimony (Natural Resources) and Industrial Development of Mexico José Andres de Oteyza, recently made a four-day visit to Canada.

In Ottawa, Mr. Oteyza met with Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Marc Lalonde, attended a session in the House of Commons, and met briefly with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.



Mr. Oteyza (centre) and Mr. Lumley (left) listen to Hugh Whelan, President of International Paper and Chairman of the Canadian Export Association at a luncheon sponsored by the association during Mr. Oteyza's visit to Canada.

The Mexican delegation also met with the Minister of State for Trade Ed Lumley, who hosted a dinner in their honour. The 20-member group also visited the National Research Council.

The mission travelled to Montreal where members met with businessmen and attended a study session on urban transportation with the city's office of urban transport, Bombardier Limited, B.G. Checo International Limited, and representatives of other companies. The members of the delegation were also invited to a dinner in their honour by Quebec Minister of Trade and Commerce Yves Duhaime.

In Toronto, the Mexican businessmen in the mission met with representatives of the Canadian business community, while Mr. Oteyza and other Mexican officials responsible for nuclear energy participated in a workshop with Ontario Hydro and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. They also visited the Bruce nuclear plant. The Mexican minister also met with Ontario Premier Bill Davis and with the province's Minister of Energy Robert Welch and Minister of Natural Resources James Auld.

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