Satellite knowhow demonstrated in Australia

Canada will demonstrate Canadian satellite technology and will participate in a workshop in Canberra, Australia, August 22-24, at the invitation of the Australian Government.

The workshop, "Satellite Communications – The Canadian Experience and Australian Planning", and demonstration are taking place at a time when the Australian Government is assessing the desirability of introducing a domestic communications satellite system.

Canada will demonstrate telephony with its *Hermes* satellite with two telephone terminals with 1.0-m dish antennas located in remote locations in eastern Australia and near Rockhampton. Both will be connected to the Australian switched telephone network. As well, Canada will be demonstrating low and high power television reception with *Hermes*, using five 1.2-m diameter dish antennas in about 50 remote and rural locations in northern Queensland and New South Wales. Telephone and television reception will also be demonstrated at the workshop in Canberra. The *Hermes* satellite was moved from its location above the equator south of Calgary to the middle of the Pacific for the demonstrations.

Dr. John Chapman, assistant deputy minister (space program) in the Department of Communications, will lead the Canadian delegation which comprises representatives from the department, the Canadian Telecommunications Carriers Association, Telesat Canada, Spar Aerospace Ltd. of Montreal, SED Systems Inc. of Saskatoon and the Ontario Educational Communications Authority.

A teleconference will be held on each of the three days of the workshop – August 22, fibre optics; August 23, telemedicine; August 24, tele-education. Demonstrations and briefings will also be given on Telidon, the advanced interactive TV technology developed by Canada's Communications Research Centre.

From August 27-31, the Canadian communications technology in the form of television reception using *Hermes* and the Canadian Telidon system will be demonstrated before delegates to the Institute of Radio and Electronics Engineers convention in Sydney.

Hermes is the eighth of nine Canadian satellites in orbit. Launched in January 1976, it had a design lifetime of two years, but now is in its fourth year of operation. The Canadian-designed and built satellite has been used in a wide range of social and technological experiments in areas such as tele-education, telehealth, community interaction and broadcasting to remote communities.

Canada contributes to Red Cross appeal for Africa

Canada is contributing $750,000 to the renewed appeal of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for its humanitarian relief activities across Africa.

The contribution brings the 1979 total Canadian response to the appeal to $1.75 million.

The ICRC provides protection to all victims, both civilian and military, who do not take a direct part in hostilities. More than 60 ICRC delegates, with about 100 African staff, at present, are serving in Africa.

In May 1978 the ICRC launched its initial appeal to the international community and to all members of the Red Cross movement to help meet the humanitarian needs arising from the various conflicts taking place in Africa.

(From Development Directions *May/June 1979.)*

Nigerian students in Canada

The second group of Nigerian students to participate in the Nigeria/Canada Technical Education Program are expected to arrive in Canada by September 1.

The program, sponsored by the Ottawa-based Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), will permit 400 students to attend Canadian schools during the 1979-80 academic year. This group will bring the total number of Nigerian students attending Canadian institutions under the program to 800. This year, over 2,000 candidates were interviewed in seven Nigerian centres by a joint Nigerian/Canadian selection team. Five Canadians accompanied the director of the program, Floyd Tuzo, to Nigeria for the selection process in May.

CBIE executive director J.R. McBride visited Lagos prior to the arrival of the Canadians to complete negotiations for the selection of the students. The students will be placed only in community colleges, following the original Nigerian plan, which called for the training of a large number of technologists in a short period. No new university students were selected for this year.

This agreement calls for the Nigerian Government to pay $6.3 million to cover the total cost of the program.

The additional need for placement this coming academic year led to the participation of all ten Canadian provinces in the program. The number of participating institutions will increase from 22 to an estimated 50; about 23 colleges will be added to the 12 already participating in the program.

Dig deeper advice pays off

An article in *Spectator* magazine dated June 23 by Anthony Mockler, attributes an oil strike at Wytch Farm, Dorset, England, to advice given to the drilling company by Canadian engineers.

According to Mr. Mockler, two strikes had already been made in Dorset, one a "tiny find" near Wareham, which still produces 70 barrels of oil a day; the other a "field" at Kimmeridge near the sea shore, which produces 390 barrels a day.

At Wytch Farm, writes Mr. Mockler, British Gas (Exploration) Ltd., drilled again, and went down a few feet deeper than they had in an original attempt. They hit a field at 3-4,000 feet deep about four miles long by half a mile wide. Early next year, when they expect to be on full flow, the company expects to produce about 4,000 barrels of oil a day – a sizable income at $20 a barrel.

"The story," told in Dorset, states the article, "is that British Gas...went with the production...but if it hadn't been for the advice of certain visiting Canadian engineers, they would never have thought of sinking a deeper well on the same site. But two-and-a-half years ago the Canadians persuaded them to try the idea; they did, and made a new strike roughly 6,000 feet down – with a field estimated at four times the size of the earlier one. That means 20,000 barrels a day potentially from the small upper field and the large deeper field: or in other words, a small North Sea oilfield on land...which can be tapped with far less difficulty than those under the North Sea – and at far less expense...."