

lead, zinc and copper that are the company's main products.

Although Cominco Electronic has been exporting to Asia for years, the agreement with Mitsui and Denki should boost sales substantially, said Dave Guettinger, manager of marketing at Cominco Electronic.

"World-wide sales totalled about \$50 million last year," said Guettinger. "But 80 per cent of that was in North America."

In recent years Mitsui has been quietly solidifying its relationship with Cominco. Apart from this latest agreement, the two companies have been discussing a joint venture ferrosilicon plant in British Columbia.

Ferrosilicon is used as a hardening agent in steel. Its production requires large amounts of energy.

### Radar aids ice patrols

Ships travelling in Canadian waters will have a better chance of avoiding icebergs and ice blockages, thanks to a radar system developed by Ottawa's Canadian Astronautics Ltd.

The nine-year-old company is finalizing its second contract for the new ice reconnaissance radar system, a \$1.6-million contract with de Havilland Aircraft Ltd. of Downsview, Ontario.

Last month, the company signed a \$2.3-million contract with Environment Canada to replace the outdated system on the federal department's *Electra* ice reconnaissance plane with the new system, which is called a side-looking airborne radar.

The latest contract calls for Canadian Astronautics to develop and install the system in a new de Havilland *DASH 7* plane, which will be fully-equipped and ready for Environment Canada's use in about 18 months.

The two radar-equipped planes will be used by the department's Atmospheric Environment Service to provide information on ice patterns and blockages to such users as Canadian Coast Guard ice-breakers, drilling rigs and other ships in ice-infested waters.

Operators of the radar system can see 100 kilometres on each side of the plane, a much wider range than older visual and technical systems permit.

The radar can also "see" through clouds and operate in all weather conditions, day or night, which is particularly important for operating during the Arctic winter.

### Funds for northern exploration

Oil and gas exploration agreements committing \$163.4 million to exploration in the Beaufort Sea and Mackenzie valley over five years were announced recently by Northern Development Minister John Munro.

The nine agreements, negotiated through the Canada Oil and Gas Lands Administration, bring the value of hydrocarbon exploration in the north over the next five years to \$3.7 billion.

The agreements are based on rights held in the Beaufort Sea and Mackenzie valley areas before the administration was created last year. Administration representative Don Sherwin said the announcement brings to 41 the number of agreements completed for the areas, leaving ten outstanding. He said that the agreements, taken together, mean 16 new wells are to be drilled within five years at a cost of \$60 million. "This is just the beginning

of an upswing in exploration in the Mackenzie valley in anticipation of the Norman Wells pipeline in 1985."

Mr. Munro said his department was spending \$250 000 to increase monitoring of oil companies.

Placid Northern Oils Ltd. and Dome Petroleum Ltd. are to drill one well within five years in the Beaufort, part of an investment of \$108 million in exploration — 80 per cent to be spent in Canada under terms of federal grants.

Suncor Inc. is to drill one well and spend \$22.6 million and Petro-Canada Exploration Inc. is to spend \$11 million and drill one well.

Two agreements with Dome Petroleum Ltd. call for three wells over four years and a \$9.2-million investment.

Amerada Minerals Corp. is to drill one well over four years and spend \$6.6 million. Pan Mackenzie is to drill one well in the Yukon over five years and spend \$16 million.

### Expo 86 plans unveiled for foreign dignitaries



*Expo 86 (the World Exposition on Transportation and related Communications), recently held a presentation in Ottawa for parliamentarians and heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Canada. Hosted by Senator Jack Austin, Minister of State for Social Development and minister responsible for Expo 86, the session outlined plans for the exposition and its associated activities such as the World Festival of the Arts. Expo 86 will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia from May to October 1986. Senator Austin (centre) points out features of the Expo site on a model to the Ambassadors of (left to right) Peru, Spain, Thailand, Senegal and the High Commissioner for Kenya. All these countries will participate in the exposition. Extreme left is Deputy Commissioner Richard Noyes Roberts, then the French Counsellor in conversation with Commissioner General Patrick Reid.*