



Canadair's Challenger executive twinjet made its debut in the ASEAN region at the Asian Aerospace Exhibition 1981 in Singapore.

areas has kept pace with the best and leads the world in digital communications.

An obvious parallel can be drawn between the ASEAN requirements for communications and the Canadian experience. Even urban Canadians, amounting to about three-quarters of the 23 million population, are divided from each other by formidable geographic barriers and vast distances similar to those between ASEAN countries.

It is with this in mind that eight Canadian firms will be participating in **CommunicAsia '81**, the second Asian international electronic show and conference, to be held from December 9-12 at Singapore's World Trade Centre. Included in the early list of participants are Canadian Marconi, AEI Telecommunications, ITT Communications, Sinclair Radio Laboratories, and Intercontinental Data Control, all of which are seeking a more permanent presence in Southeast Asia.

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Computerisation of government departments has been proven to increase effectiveness and efficiency. The computerisation of such Canadian departments

by private industry has created a high level of expertise, which has been recognized to be among the highest available. It is, therefore, not surprising that the largest of the Canadian software companies, DMR Associates, has been holding discussions in Singapore and Montreal that could result in the transfer of this technology to Singapore.

In addressing requirements similar to those of Singapore, DMR and Associates, a leading data processing consulting firm based in Montreal, recently completed a computerization requirements study for the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development of Zimbabwe.

After surveying the government's present and future data processing requirements, DMR closely examined education and training requirements with the ultimate objective of achieving virtual independence from outside assistance and developing a suitable strategy regarding future development of data processing in government.

Following this study, the formation of a scientific computing centre was announced. DMR is currently providing the project management and associated tasks in order to put this centre into operation by mid-1982 to meet the needs of more than a dozen ministries

and government departments engaged in statistical analysis, economic and manpower planning, engineering, research, and development. It will also be used to process and tabulate data from the national census to be conducted next year.

Other recent international projects handled by DMR include the results system for the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow, master planning of the public finance sector of Algeria, and the modification and implementation of an on-line system for a credit union in Australia.

These assignments were undertaken by DMR's International Division, which is headed by Alain Roy, who will visit Singapore shortly to discuss joint-venture possibilities. The study team, directed by Kirk Thompson, includes Patricia Trapnell, a partner, who visited Singapore in December, 1980, and again in July, 1981, to lay the foundations for DMR to enter the ASEAN market.

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The **Royal Bank of Canada** is expanding in Singapore and says it plans to expand other Asian operations as well.

The bank recently moved to larger premises in Singapore and will increase its staff to further develop foreign-exchange trading, trade financing and other business. Enlargement is planned also for the energy-financing division—one of several specialized units the bank operates as well in Canada, the United States, and England.

The Royal Bank has been operating an offshore branch in Singapore since 1975 and it also operates a merchant bank. InchRoy Credit Corporation, a Hong Kong based deposit-taking company that is 70 per cent owned by the Royal Bank, also maintains an office in Singapore.

The Royal Bank is Canada's largest and the fourth largest in North America. It has 200 operating units in 45 other countries. In the financial year ended October 31, 1980, the bank earned \$327.4 million after taxes, up 21 per cent from the previous year. Earnings from international operations jumped 57 per cent from 1979 to \$145.4 million, accounting for 45 per cent of the bank's 1980 after-tax profit.

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Canada's **Minister for Employment and Immigration** Lloyd Axworthy visited Singapore for four days at the end of September during an extensive tour that took him first to Japan and Hong Kong and then to India before returning home.

The purpose of his visit to Singapore was to gain first-hand knowledge of the operation of Canada's Indo-Chinese refugee program, under which 70,000 refugees have been accepted by Canada since 1978.