

telecommunications aspect is of prime importance. The project will provide new state-of-the-art communications equipment such as very high frequency transmitters and receivers and control-tower consoles. These components are essential to airport safety.

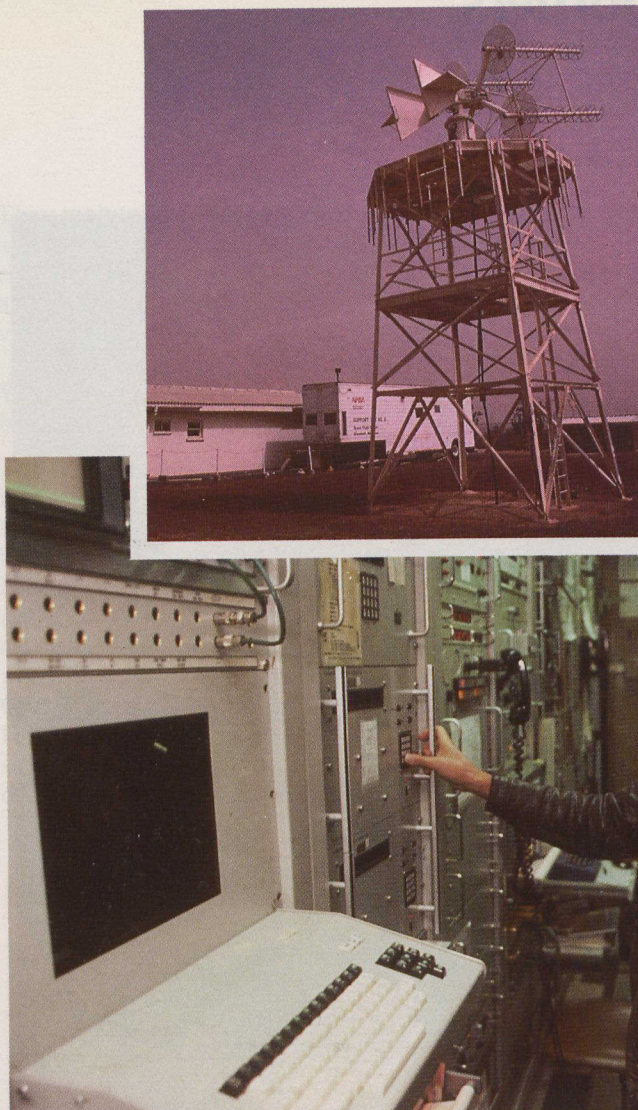
It is a major international challenge to expand communications in all parts of the world. Canadians have proved in their own country that advanced telecommunications networks help conquer distance and isolation and, as a result, enhance the quality of life. Improved health care, education and transportation systems are only a few of the benefits. Today, as a telecommunications pioneer, Canada is committed to helping other countries achieve their communications goals and thus contribute to improved global socio-economic structures.

Participating in world organizations

Canada's active participation in a number of influential international organizations helps promote Canadian interests in the international telecommunications environment and ensures that the country will maintain its position as a world leader in communications.

Most of the world's nations belong to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), a specialized agency of the United Nations. One of its functions is to co-ordinate the shortwave broadcast spectrum. Since radio waves do not recognize international boundaries, bilateral and multilateral co-operation is essential. The most pressing problem is the excessive number of broadcast requirements from all countries that must be fitted into a very limited amount of spectrum. It has been compared to putting a size ten foot into a size four shoe.

Canada's international short wave needs are relatively small compared with a number of other countries. Radio Canada International broadcasts about 162 program hours weekly while countries like the United States and the Soviet Union each have more than 2 000 hours of programming. However,



Microwave towers and equipment for CIDA's program to advance communications in Senegal.

RCI's small budget means good relations with the other major international broadcasters is essential if Canada's shortwave service is to meet its international commitments. With more and more frequency congestion and the rising costs of competing for high frequency bands, it is becoming increasingly important for Canada that rules be established to manage the spectrum.

ITU member countries addressed the question of planning the use of shortwave broadcasting bands at two sessions of a World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC), held in 1984 and 1987. At the First Session, the concept of equitable sharing of the shortwave spectrum was recognized, and the parameters of a planning

method were developed. Canada vigorously supported work at the Second Session to introduce an effective and universally acceptable planning method.

Another area of major importance to Canada is the increased flow of information across international boundaries. With the development of automatic data processing, vast quantities of data can be quickly transferred anywhere in the world. This has led to concern about privacy and security of personal data in both the private and public sectors.