

## Canada/U.S. check environment

Canada and the United States have agreed on a co-operative monitoring arrangement for the Poplar River, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan has announced. The arrangement was developed in response to United States concerns about possible environmental effects in Montana from the Saskatchewan Power Corporation (SPC) power plant at Coronach, Saskatchewan.

The arrangement was made public by Saskatchewan Environment Minister Ted Bowerman and Montana Lieutenant-Governor Ted Schwinden at a ceremony in Coronach, south of Regina.

The Canada/United States arrangement was developed in close consultation with the governments of Saskatchewan and Montana. It provides for the exchange of data collected from the monitoring programs in both countries in the Poplar River area at or near the international boundary. It will also ensure that this information is made available in both countries, and that any definitive changes in water quality, water quantity and air quality are detected and reported. Implementation of the arrangement will be carried out by a newly-established Poplar River monitoring committee.

## Colombian flood warning system

A Canadian flood warning and forecasting system completed this summer in Colombia is helping to prevent millions of dollars in property damage and agricultural losses.

The project was financed in part by a \$1.2-million grant from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and carried out over the past three years by Environment Canada's Atmospheric Environment Service (AES). Canadian suppliers provided radio communications equipment.

Each year floods claim an average of 140 lives and \$25 million in damages, said William Pugsley, chief of hydrometeorology at AES and director of the project.

Heavy rains in the spring and autumn cause flash floods in the highlands and flood crests in the lowlands in Colombia's Magdalena-Cauca River Basin. The 261,000-square-kilometre area is 23 per cent of the land area of the country and contains more than 90 per cent of the 25 million population.

## Canada/China diplomatic recognition ten years old

Canada and China marked the tenth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations on October 13.

Relations between Canada and China have developed steadily over the past decade with official and private exchanges and visits covering the fields of science and technology, trade, culture, education and sport. More than 300 Chinese scholars are at present studying in Canadian universities and research institutions.

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau paid an official visit to China in 1973, and several other Canadian ministers have visited the People's Republic of China. Vice Premier

Bo Yibo, who visited Canada in August of this year, was the most senior and most recent of a number of high-level Chinese officials to visit this country (see *Canada Weekly* dated September 17).

In 1979, two-way trade totalled \$759 million of which \$592 million represented Canadian exports to China. Bilateral trade at the time of recognition totalled \$160 million. China is Canada's largest market for wheat and a sizable market for non-ferrous metals, fertilizers and forestry products. The value of China's exports to Canada, \$167 million in 1979, has increased eight-fold since 1970.



*To commemorate Canada's recognition of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Ambassador gave a dinner attended by those who were part of the historic event and by other Canadian officials. Pictured at the dinner are: (left to right) former Canadian Ambassador to Sweden Arthur Andrew, who negotiated the recognition procedures, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan, Chinese Ambassador Wang Tung and former Canadian Ambassadors to China Ralph Collins and Arthur Menzies.*

Faced with such losses, the government of Colombia requested technical assistance from Canada in the setting up of a flood forecasting and warning service. CIDA in turn asked AES in 1976 to provide a meteorological specialist to undertake a feasibility study of such a service.

The project was based on a two-way radio communications system capable of reporting meteorological and hydrological data in support of a central processing and forecasting system. About 90 rainfall observer stations and 55 radio stations in the field were set up. The system was ex-

panded with the help of Colombia's civil defence organization.

While the system was being organized in Colombia by a five-man Canadian team, four hydrologists and four meteorologists from Colombia were being trained in Canada mainly at headquarters of AES. The Colombians form the flood forecast staff of HIMAT (Instituto Colombiano de Hidrologia Meteorologia il Adecucion de Tierros), the counterpart of Canada's AES. Colombia supplied most of the observers and was responsible for installation of the radio stations.