Mr. Jamieson visits Mediterranean

During a two-week visit, October 25 to November 7, to the Mediterranean the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Don Jamieson, called on Government leaders in Israel, Spain, Greece and Egypt.

In Israel Mr. Jamieson met with President Katzir, Prime Minister Begin, Foreign Minister Dayan and other political leaders. During the meeting, Israeli and Canadian officials discussed the full range of bilateral relations as well as the prospects for peace in the Middle East. Mr. Jamieson drew attention to Canada's role in contributing to stability in the region when he visited Canadian troops serving with the United Nations Disengagement Force on the Golan Heights. Before leaving Israel, Mr. Jamieson stated that the main objective of his mission to Israel was "to encourage the Israeli Government and people to make all reasonable moves in order to bring about the kind of accommodation among the parties that is necessary before the talks can resume. Following these talks I can describe my attitude towards the prospects for a resumption of the Geneva talks as cautiously optimistic".

In Egypt, Mr. Jamieson discussed the Middle East conflict and the prospects for peace with President Sadat, Prime Minister Salem, and Foreign Minister Fahmy. Mr. Jamieson also visited Canadian troops serving with the United Nations Emergency Force in the Sinai.

While he was in Cairo, the Secretary of State for External Affairs announced that Canada would grant Egypt $5 million for food aid in the form of wheat and $2 million in associated transportation costs for fiscal year 1977-78. This is an addition to the Canadian contribution of $10 million of food aid that was donated to Egypt in 1976.

During his visit to Israel and Egypt, Mr. Jamieson established good personal relations with the leaders of the two countries, he examined means of improving bilateral relations with both Egypt and Israel and encouraged both countries in their efforts to move towards early negotiations.

Morocco buys simulators

CAE Electronics Ltd. of Montreal has been chosen by Morocco to develop and manufacture more than $10-million worth of aircraft flight simulators for its national air line and for its defence forces.

The Canadian company has signed a contract with Royal Air Maroc to supply a Boeing 727 commercial transport simulator with six-degrees-of-freedom motion system and computer-generated image visual system.

The Moroccan defence forces have placed contracts with CAE Electronics for a Lockheed C-130 *Hercules* military transport simulator and for two *Augusta-Bell* AB205 light transport helicopter simulators in a single complex. All three will be equipped with six-degrees-of-freedom motion systems and the C-130 will include a computer-generated image visual system.

The simulators are scheduled for shipment in mid-1979.

Underground housing

Two University of Toronto professors claim to have found the answer to skyrocketing costs of urban accommodation, particularly in the Canadian environment.

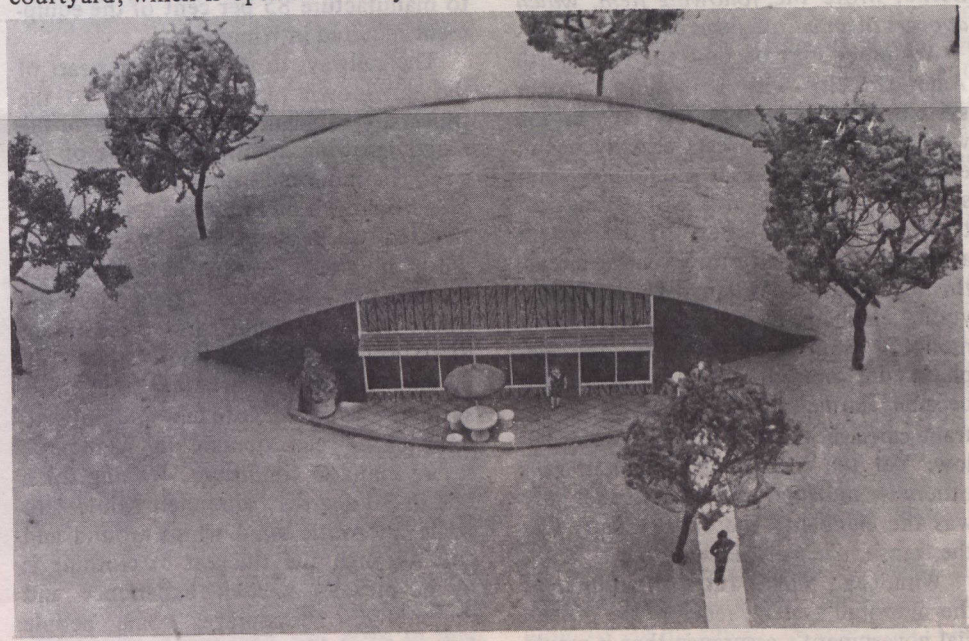
According to Jean Claude Roegiers and John Timusk of U. of T's Department of Civil Engineering, building houses underground – deep enough to take full advantage of the insulating characteristics of the soil, but designed to let in daylight and fresh air – results in significant savings in heating and maintenance costs.

Their research shows heating costs could be as little as one-tenth of those for conventional housing. Maintenance would be a fraction of what it is now – "underground houses could last for hundreds of years", says Roegiers. "Furthermore, how else could you have a roof garden at ground level?"

Roegiers, a geotechnical engineer, and Timusk, a materials specialist, who is, at present, in Sweden on research leave, are trying to arouse the interest of government and private business to initiate a full-scale development program, and a demonstration project. They claim their idea applies to industrial buildings too.

The two engineers have proposed two types of what they call "soil-insulated" dwellings: a semi-submerged structure, which will use the material from the excavation as a cover, with windows at the surface; and a fully-submerged structure built around an "atrium," or central courtyard, which is open to the sky. The thick earth cover is sodded and landscaped, creating a park-like setting even in a high-density urban area.

"Buildings today use too much valuable space and energy," says Roegiers. "This type of housing would improve the over-all quality of life...."



Semi-submerged house envisaged by University of Toronto engineers uses material from excavation as cover, several feet in thickness, sodded and landscaped.