

CANADA - U.S. WEATHER-SATELLITE

A weather-satellite "readout" station will be built in Eastern Canada in 1963, Transport Minister Léon Balcer announced recently. The exact location has not yet been decided on.

Government approval has been given for the conclusion of an agreement on this subject with the United States. The agencies involved are the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the United States Weather Bureau in the U.S. and the Department of Transport in Canada. The agreement calls for a "command and data acquisition station" in the "Nimbus" meteorological-satellite system now being established by the two American agencies.

The first "Nimbus" satellite is expected to be launched by the end of 1963. These satellites will record data on a number of variables important to meteorologists, store this information until line-of-sight communication with a command and data acquisition station if possible, and then transmit television-type pictures and data in other forms to earth on command from the "readout" station.

EARLIER EXPERIMENTS

"Project Nimbus" will be the successor to the current "Tiros" weather-satellite programme. Intended as just an experiment, "Tiros" was so successful that it became operational almost from the start. Weather data supplied by "Tiros" satellites have been distributed throughout the world for over a year now.

The "Nimbus" programme will consist of a continuing series of satellites, so that there will always be at least one in orbit. Circling the earth in polar orbits, each satellite will observe the whole world's weather in about 24 hours.

The "Nimbus" system calls for one ground station in Alaska and another in the Canadian Maritimes. The second station will be manned by Canadians, possibly with some U.S. personnel for assistance, training and liaison.

The extent of Canada's participation in the estimated \$1,600,000 annual operating costs will be considered later.

The agreement stipulates that the U.S. will bear all capital costs but that NASA will, as far as practical, from a technical point of view, "make every effort to use Canadian enterprise to the maximum extent feasible" in building the station.

Mr. Balcer stressed the importance to Canada of the information obtained from the "Nimbus" satellites. Valuable data on ice formation and movement in navigable waters and the progress of storms affecting fishing areas are a few of many direct benefits.

CANADIAN OIL EQUIPMENT TO LIBYA

The oil-development operations in the Middle East of the Mobile International Oil Company will shortly depend on equipment manufactured in Alberta. An order by Mobile International for 21 Rapid-Tector

casing protectors was recently filled by the Edmonton plant of the Weatherford Oil Tool Company.

The Alberta-made casing protectors are made of aluminum, 12 units of the standard 9 5/8-inch diameter and the rest of an oversize 13 3/8-inch diameter. The extra-large protectors were made for the first time to fill this contract.

Before the shipment of these 1,408 pounds of equipment to Libya, the Weatherford Company had provided such oil-well cementing tools as centralizers, scratchers and stop collars to firms carrying on oil-development operations in Algeria. The recent order is expected to open a new market for oil equipment manufactured in Alberta in other parts of the world.

BALANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS

A variety of factors led to a marked improvement in Canada's foreign-exchange position in the third quarter of 1962 in contrast to the losses of exchange reserves in the second quarter. Contributing to the rise in official reserves of \$686 million in the quarter in terms of Canadian dollars were a seasonal reduction in the current-account deficit to \$61 million from \$377 million in the second quarter, net inflows of capital in long-term forms of \$247 million compared to net outflows of \$13 million in the second quarter and net inflows of capital in short-term forms of \$500 million compared to net outflows of \$203 million in the second quarter. These changes followed the official measures introduced towards the end of June and the stabilization of the foreign-exchange value of the Canadian dollar in May.

CURRENT ACCOUNT

The sharp contraction in the current-account deficit from the second quarter brought it to about the same size as in the third quarter of 1961; the sources were quite different, as a reduced deficit this year from non-merchandise transactions largely offset a smaller surplus from merchandise trade. This change was mainly owing to a significant expansion in the surplus on travel account, from \$35 million in the third quarter of last year to \$89 million in the same quarter of this year, together with some reductions in dividend transfers and in official contributions.

In the bilateral distribution of the current-account balance, the deficit with the United States declined \$61 million between the third quarters of 1961 and 1962, from \$151 million to \$90 million, while the surplus with Britain rose from \$42 million to \$49 million. The current-account balance with other countries, on the other hand, changed from a surplus of \$47 million to a deficit of \$20 million, or a turnaround of \$67 million.

DEFICIT WITH U.S.

The current deficit with the United States for the nine months of 1962 of \$870 million was 15 per cent smaller than the imbalance of \$1,019 million for the same period of 1961. Nearly two-thirds of this im-