

Canadian trade mission in Venezuela

A major Canadian business mission met with Venezuelan government and business officials recently in Caracas for a series of trade and technology discussions.

The mission was sponsored by the Canadian Association for Latin America (CALA) which was formed in 1969 by a group of Canadian businessmen to develop trade links with South America.

Venezuela is Canada's fifth most important export market — after the U.S., Japan, Britain and West Germany. According to Canadian Government statistics, Canada exported \$575 million to Venezuela between January and October last year. The bulk of Canada's exports are auto parts (70 per cent), followed by newsprint, copper rods and plastics.

Canada is Venezuela's second most important export market with over \$1 billion in 1978 (mostly oil sales).

The 19-man mission included representatives of Canada's major companies in the fields of construction, power, foods and paper.

The visit also included the inauguration of a Canadian-Venezuelan bilateral economic relations committee.

Small hydro demonstration project

The federal and Nova Scotia governments have announced agreement on construction of a project that will reduce the Atlantic region's dependence on imported oil, which accounts for more than 75 per cent of its total energy consumption.

Canada is one of the world's primary producers of electricity from water. It has about 9 per cent of the total flow of all the rivers in the world and, as a consequence, about 70 per cent of all electrical energy is produced from the kinetic energy of falling water. Against the background of declining fossil fuels and rising prices, increasing attention is being given to small hydro plants, installations with a "low head" or small body of water for electrical generation.

A new concept for a horizontal hydraulic turbine will be used in the hydro-electric demonstration project in Nova Scotia.

The new turbine, called "Straflo", was originally developed in Switzerland and offers an estimated 10 percent reduction in capital costs for low head hydro-electric

generating facilities. Although small units (2 megawatts) have been built in Europe, it is expected that units of up to 100 megawatts with hydraulic heads of up to 40 metres can be built in Canada. The Annapolis, Nova Scotia site has the added advantage of being suitable for experimentation on the tidal power application of the design.

In addition to the industrial benefits to be derived from the project, it is hoped that valuable knowledge and experience will be gained on the economics of harnessing undeveloped hydro-electric resources in Canada and that prospects for the development of major tidal energy sites, especially in the Bay of Fundy, will be enhanced.

Indochinese resettling in Canada

The Federal Government recently announced the availability of \$1,310,000 to support and strengthen the work of voluntary, non-profit organizations involved in the adaptation and integration of Indochinese refugees resettling in Canada.

The Federal Government is making \$710,000 available for grants to those groups which are primarily engaged in establishing links between Indochinese refugees and the voluntary sector of the community. The money will assist in meeting administrative costs associated with the activities of the organizations concerned.

The \$710,000 for the grants program will be complemented by \$600,000 that is being made available to other groups and organizations through the already existing Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program (ISAP) which is utilized for the purchase of services to immigrants, including refugees. These services include interpretation and counselling.

Organizations seeking ISAP assistance must be incorporated and enter into formal contracts with the Government to provide specific services to individual immigrants and refugees. Currently, about 80 organizations at the community level have entered into such agreements.

The changes now in effect will make funds more easily available through ISAP to some non-profit groups which have contractual agreements with the Federal Government to provide specific services to individual immigrants, and to other agencies who meet ISAP requirements.

These services must not duplicate those provided by the Federal Government, nor those of other levels of government or private organizations operating within the community.

The \$710,000 in grants will help defray the administrative costs of the non-profit organizations which are not now receiving financial assistance through ISAP and are not party to a formal refugee sponsorship agreement with the government.

Low cost satellite transmission

The Department of Communications has demonstrated that two video signals of acceptable quality can be transmitted over a single satellite transponder and received on low-cost earth terminals.

This could cut video transmission costs in half, says Colin Billowes, program manager of direct satellite broadcasting for the department. Communications Research Centre engineers have given the demonstration to the CBC, BCTV and Telesat Canada. Transmission of two video signals over one transponder will be a feature of the British Columbia portion of the department's experimental direct-to-home TV broadcast pilot project.

The Ontario portion of the direct satellite broadcasting project was announced in September and involves transmission of TV Ontario programming to 1.2 m dish antennas placed in individual homes and to 1.8 m dish antennas in community centres and at cable TV head ends. In the B.C. portion, programming supplied by Vancouver CBC and BCTV stations will be transmitted over a single transponder to 1.8 m dish antennas.

Another feature of the project is that 20-watt transponders provide sufficient power for clear TV signals, using the new small terminals. It was assumed previously that at least a 200-watt transponder would be needed for direct-to-home satellite broadcasting.

The *Anik-C* satellite being built by Hughes Aircraft and Spar Aerospace for Telesat Canada will have 16 transponders, each capable of broadcasting one or two TV signals. "If the broadcast service proves out in Ontario," says George Davies, director of the space communication program office at the CRC, "it could be operational in 1982 with *Anik C* and provide a number of TV programs to each of four regions of Canada."