

inviting them to acquire an equity interest, as well as to provide certain financial and marketing co-operation. International Nickel will be responsible for the design, construction, operation and management of the project.

TESTING IN CANADA

The company has drilled more than 1,900 drill holes - totalling 35,000 meters - in the Soroako area alone since drilling began there in 1969. Two bulk samples - one from the Soroako area and one from the Pomalaa area - each weighing 2,000 tons, have been shipped to INCO Canada's research stations and laboratories in Ontario for both laboratory and pilot-plant testing. Work continues also on a development study covering engineering, marketing, financial and processing elements for the proposed project. While certain preliminary work is currently under way, construction cannot begin until matters are finalized following completion of the development study. The study is expected to be completed about the end of the year.

It is presently contemplated that the first stage of the project would involve the construction of facilities to produce about 50 million pounds of nickel a year in the form of matte with initial production planned for the mid-1970s.

COSTS

Capital costs for the first stage of the project and required infrastructure will not be defined until the development study is completed. A rough preliminary estimate indicates that these costs could be in the order of \$200 million. The company estimates that it will have spent some \$15 million by the end of 1971 on exploration and development activities....

METRIC CONVERSION COMMISSION

Establishment of a Preparatory Commission for Metric Conversion was announced recently by Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

The Commission, composed of 15 part-time members and a full-time chairman, will initiate, co-ordinate and undertake investigations, surveys and studies relating to the implications of conversion in different sectors of the Canadian economy.

The new body will prepare a program for conversion to ensure as far as possible that conversion programs in various sectors of the Canadian economy are phased and co-ordinated so that benefits of conversion may be achieved at minimal cost and to the best advantage to Canada.

Formation of the Commission follows the publishing of a White Paper on January 16, 1970, at

which time Mr. Pepin said: "Canada's ability to maintain and expand its vital export trade with countries in the metric sphere will directly benefit from conversion."

The White Paper stated: "The Government believes that adoption of the metric system of measurement is ultimately inevitable, and desirable, for Canada...the Federal Government should assume the leading role in planning and in the process of change."

The Minister pointed out that no legislative action is contemplated that would make mandatory a general use of metric in place of inch-pound units.

PRESERVATION OF WILD WATERS

Wild rivers in northwestern Canada will be studied this summer to document their natural values and recreational potential, Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, announced recently.

A pilot project of the Department's National and Historic Parks Branch, this study, which will take three-and-a-half months, is being concentrated on 20 major, wild rivers in the Yukon Territory. If time permits, investigations may extend to some rivers in the Mackenzie District of the Northwest Territories. The term "wild" refers to a river that is still in its natural state, and has not been altered by dams, diversions, water-deterioration or other changes.

The purpose of the study, which began on June 1, is to ensure that future allocation of the resources of these rivers is made with the full knowledge of their total recreational potential and natural significance. Preliminary hydro-electric studies have been completed on some of them by the Northern Economic Development Branch of the Department.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

The survey is being carried out by 16 university students who are canoeing the waterways and documenting their condition, potential for recreation, and historic landmarks along their course.

They are at present surveying the Yukon, the major river in the Yukon Territory, and will next form four-man teams to study other waterways including the Pelly, Macmillan and Teslan Rivers.

Mr. Chrétien stated that in view of northern Canada's rapidly-expanding development programs some provision must be made to protect the wild river heritage there.

"Many such opportunities have already been lost in southern Canada and more noticeably in the United States as a result of not recognizing the value of a free-flowing river," he said.