

CANADA SATELLITE TESTING

The Minister of Transport, Mr. George J. McIlraith, has announced the approval by the Governments of Canada and the United States of a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Transport and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) under which Canada would participate in the testing of experimental communication satellites launched by NASA, such as *Telstar*, *Relay*, *Syncom* and others. The approval by the two governments took the form of an exchange of notes between the Canadian Ambassador in Washington and the United States Secretary of State.

Under the agreement, the Department of Transport will construct a ground station capable of exchanging television, multi-channel telephone, telegraph, or data transmissions with other ground stations through communication satellites. Canadian participation will include membership in the Ground Stations Committee, which is composed of representatives of a number of countries taking part in the experimental programme.

The cost of the ground station, for which no site has been selected yet, has been estimated to be approximately \$5 million. Its purpose is to conduct experiments in space communications in order to obtain the information relating to ground-station and

satellite performance that will be necessary for the development of a world communication system using satellites. Sufficient flexibility is being incorporated into the design of the station to ensure that it can eventually be converted into a terminal for a commercial system.

The Transport Department's ground station will incorporate the latest techniques and equipment available in the space-communication field. During the operation, close liaison will be maintained, with Canadian industry, maximum use of which is to be made in order that industrialists may obtain a working knowledge of space communications. The facility will be used to test any new ideas which Canadian industry may develop.

Canada has for some years participated in international telecommunications based on high-frequency radio and submarine cables. It is likely that an international commercial system of communications using earth satellites will come into operation before the end of the present decade; this new technique will permit many more telephone and telegraph circuits to be made available for international communications. It will also make available for the first time international circuits capable of exchanging television signals.

LAW OF THE SEA DISCUSSIONS

On August 26 and 27, representatives of the United States and Canadian Governments held discussions in Ottawa on a wide range of questions concerning fisheries and territorial waters. The U.S. delegation was headed by Deputy Under-Secretary of State U. Alexis Johnson, and also consisted of: William C. Harrington, Special Assistant for Fisheries to the Under-Secretary, Department of State; Fred E. Taylor, Deputy Special Assistant for Fisheries to the Under-Secretary, Department of State; Raymond T. Yingling, Assistant Legal Adviser, Department of State; Donald L. McKernan, Director, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Department of the Interior; William M. Terry, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; Captain H. Ost, United States Navy, Department of Defence.

The Canadian delegation was headed by Mr. Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Mr. H.J. Robichaud, Minister of Fisheries, and also included; Marcel Cadieux, Deputy Under-Secretary and Legal Adviser, Department of External Affairs; A.W.H. Needler, Deputy Minister of Fisheries; S.V. Ozere, Assistant Deputy Minister of Fisheries; Captain R.W. Murdoch, Royal Canadian Navy; Lieutenant-Commander G.D. Westwood, RCN; J.A. Beesley, Department of External Affairs.

The discussions consisted of the opening round of a series of talks the next of which will be held in Washington in September, if possible. The Ambassador of the United States was in attendance.

URBAN TRANSIT

The number of initial revenue-passenger fares (excluding transfers) collected by Canada's urban-transit systems declined 4.0 per cent in June, to 75,049,971 from 78,213,787 a year earlier, and 1.6 per cent in the January-June period, to 490,827,714 from 498,819,364 a year ago. More initial fares were collected in the month and cumulative period than a year ago by motor-bus and subway and fewer by trolley-coach and street-car. Operating revenue was down 3.4 per cent in June, to \$10,541,094 from \$10,916,910, and by 0.2 per cent in the half year, to \$67,982,873 from \$68,110,304.

LOW-COST ESKIMO HOUSING

As part of a continuing programme to provide and improve Eskimo housing, contracts worth over \$475,000 were recently awarded for 222 homes to be built in various northern locations, according to Northern Affairs Minister Arthur Laing. "While many housing units have been delivered to northern communities in the past," said Mr. Laing, "this summer's programme will be a long step towards improving housing and health conditions for many Eskimo families".

The homes are one-bedroom and three-bedroom units. All are prefabricated, using stressed-skin plywood panels with fibreglass insulation. The three-

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