

Environment Canada computer system to be used by U.S. Government agency

Environment Minister Jeanne Sauv  announced this month that an agreement had been signed with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), under which the Canada Geographic Information System, a method of handling information for land-resource analysis, will be extensively tested by the U.S. agency. The cost, about \$65,000 will be met by the U.S. Treasury.

The USGS, which will soon be involved in a nation-wide program of land-use analysis, has been seeking a way of processing and updating its information by computer. Among the methods reviewed by the U.S. is the Canada Geographic Information System, developed by the Lands Direc-

torate of Environment Canada to read, store, analyze and compare the vast quantity of mapped information produced by the Canada Land Inventory.

Eleven series of map coverages with descriptive data are now in various stages of production in the system, including seven for the Canada Land Inventory. These are the capability of land to support agriculture, recreation, forestry, ungulates, and waterfowl; the suitability of waters for sport fish; and present land use.

To test the Canadian system, the U.S. agency will use information transmitted by the Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS-1) in a joint experiment with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Gas by rail from the North

A railway to carry oil and gas from the Arctic is technically possible but would have to carry high volumes to achieve reasonable rates, said a study released recently by Transport Minister Jean Marchand.

Capital costs for a Mackenzie Valley railway would range between \$3.2 billion and \$14.4 billion. The final cost would depend on the route and whether the trains carry oil or gas or both.

The Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railways conducted the study, which looked at 28 different routes and product combinations.

The Transport Department said in a news release that the railway study would be made available to the National Energy Board and the Mackenzie Valley pipe-line inquiry during their reviews of northern pipe-line applications.

The study group was not asked to compare the railway with other transport methods of transporting oil like pipe-lines, but the Arctic rail design offered "operating performance comparable to suggested Arctic pipe-line systems".

Another report by the Transport Department, also released by Mr. Marchand, said that the British Columbia government proposal for an oil and gas railway from Prudhoe Bay through the Yukon Territory to British Columbia was technically sound.

Food development plant nears reality

A pilot plant for developing food protein, oil and starch from Canadian grains and oilseeds has moved a step closer to reality with federal approval for funds.

G. Stanley Boulter, chairman of an interim board of directors for POS (protein, oil, starch) Pilot Plant Corporation, and the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, Otto Lang, have confirmed that Treasury Board has approved initial federal expenditure of \$4.5 million for the facility.

The main purpose of the plant is to provide the physical capability to all interested segments of Canadian industry for the development of new technologies in grain and oilseed processing.

The plant will be able to process such crops and other forms of plant protein — including legumes — to the levels of protein, oil and starch. Further processing of some of these components to the level of actual food and feed ingredients will also be possible.

New technology needed

The need for a pilot processing plant capable of developing new technology to produce protein, oil and starch from Canada's grains and oilseeds has been identified as one of the most restricting factors in the development of the food industry in Canada.

Federal studies have pointed out that the value of Canadian protein-bearing crops would be increased as much as 15 times through processing.

Technology has been lacking, and individual firms have not been capable of filling the void themselves. Federal reports have warned that unless there was swift action, the opportunity to develop this technology might be lost to foreign technology and imported crop components.

The new \$5-million plant to be in operation at its location on the campus of the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, by 1976, will therefore fill a great need for Canadian producers and processors.

The facility, to be established as a non-profit corporation, will be managed by a board of directors drawn from among member organizations which have participated financially.

While the Federal Government has

Veterans' delegation to Italy in spring

Canada will send an official delegation to Italy next April and May to take part in commemorative ceremonies at Canadian and Italian war cemeteries.

Veterans Affairs Minister David J. MacDonald, who made the announcement to the House of Commons recently, said that the memorial services would be organized with the co-operation of the Italian authorities to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the liberation of Italy and the participation of Canada's Armed Forces in the Italian campaign.

The history of the Canadian Army in Italy covers from July 1943 to February 1945, when more than 92,000 men of the 1st Canadian Corps were involved. More than a quarter of these were casualties. Over 5,000 were killed, or died of wounds, and now lie in Canadian war cemeteries in Italy.

Mr. MacDonald stated that he had visited all the major cemeteries in Italy last year. It was most appropriate he said, that memorial services be held at most of these cemeteries with surviving members of that Corps in attendance. In addition, wreaths will be laid in a number of Italian war cemeteries.

The survivors will make up the delegation going to Italy and will be selected by the commanding officers of the perpetuating units of the 1st Canadian Corps.