

## Aid to Africa

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan has announced that Canada will grant \$450 000 to the League of Red Cross Societies in support of its humanitarian relief efforts in Africa.

The grant will be provided through the international humanitarian assistance program of the Canadian International Development Agency. The League of Red Cross Societies has mounted large-scale program in Africa to respond to widespread drought and famine, to provide relief to refugees of these natural disasters and of conflicts throughout the Horn of Africa, and to assist local Red Cross and Red Crescent societies to mount better disaster preparedness programs.

## Canada signs world tin pact

Canada will sign the sixth International Tin Agreement that is expected to go into effect July 1.

The main objectives of the agreements have been to achieve a long-term balance between world tin production and consumption and to prevent excessive fluctuations in the price of tin.

The agreements have sought to do this by means of purchases and sales from an internationally-owned buffer stock and, if necessary in a situation of serious imbalance between supply and demand, by limitations on exports of producing countries.

Canada has been a member of all five previous agreements. In the fifth agreement Canada ranked as the eighth largest consuming country with tinplating accounting for half the consumption with the balance used in manufacture of solder, alloys and chemicals.

During the negotiations for the sixth agreement, which started in April 1980, Canadian negotiation objectives were met. Canada recommended an agreement that would provide a balance of rights and obligations for producing and consuming members; mandatory consumer participation in the financing of buffer stock; and improved conditions for the use of supplementary export control measures.

The buffer stock of the fifth agreement was financed through mandatory contributions by consuming countries. Canada, along with several other consuming countries, made such voluntary contributions.

## Electronic printing process reduces paperwork

Mitel, a Canadian telecommunications company, has developed a system that speeds up the printing process and reduces the firms workload in copying great numbers of documents.

Mitel of Kanata, outside Ottawa, manufactures microprocessor-controlled telephone switchboards and with every switchboard shipped to clients around the world must go 800 to 1 400 pages of technical information.

In 1980 that amounted into 11 million pages of documents needed to support products sold. In 1982, the figure is expected to reach 54 million pages.

With changes in existing products and new products coming into production, keeping pace with new documentation threatened to become an insurmountable problem for Mitel.

However, the company has developed "the world's first electronic publishing system" to alleviate the paperwork crunch.

### Time-consuming work

Traditionally, the production of documentation meant a time-consuming process of writing and editing, in-house typesetting, proofreading, preparation of line drawings and graphs, manual paste-up to camera-ready stage, platemaking, printing and binding.

Now all the work — except for the pre-

paration of drawings, which is still done manually — is carried out electronically.

The result is that whereas printing once required some two hours to prepare a camera-ready page, with the Mitel system an operator can produce a page of copy in minutes.

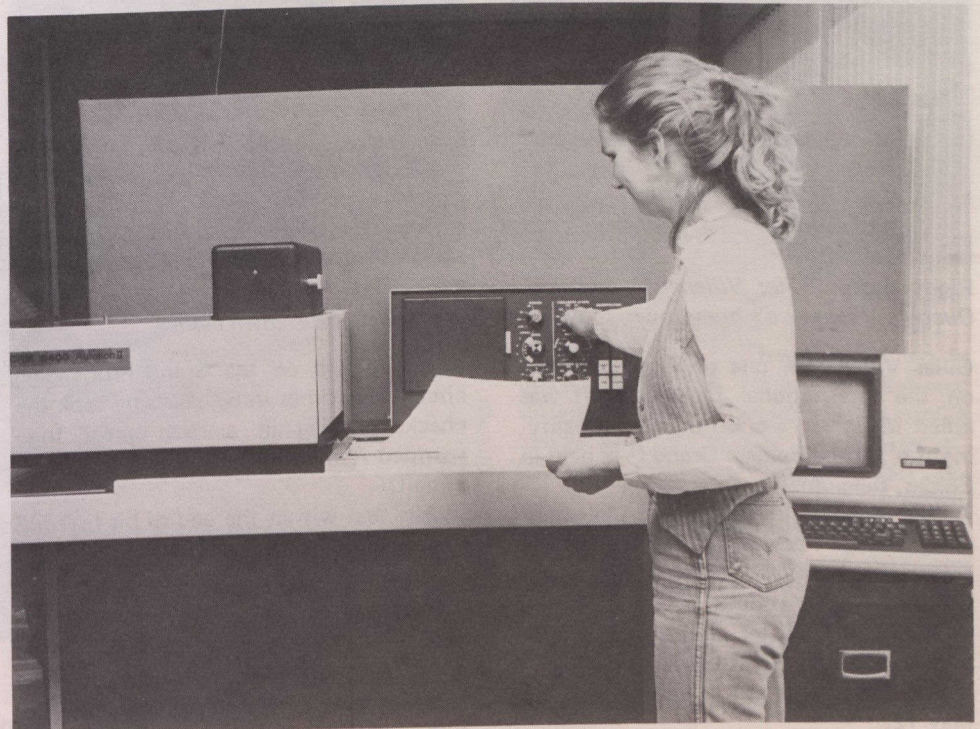
And instead of waiting for up to ten days to get a manual back from the printer, the same manual can now be produced in two hours.

Aaron Shier, publishing system manager, said the company is now working towards a system which would allow illustrators to work directly on a video display screen, thus eliminating the one non-electronic component of the publishing system.

Shier noted that because word processing terminals and computers throughout the company's local operation are tied into the publishing system, and the printing operation is so rapid, it has the capacity to produce the documentation and such things as internal telephone directories.

The system also has the ability to translate the English-language manuals into French, German and Spanish.

Translation is accomplished by a programmed dictionary contained in the computer's software package. Translations are checked for accuracy and amended where necessary.



Special equipment is used at Mitel to speed up printing.