

Beyond our borders

Canadian LANDSAT ground station built in Australia.



Assisting international projects

More than 100 other countries are now benefitting from the diversity of Canadian communications expertise. Brazil's two communications satellites and ground control system were supplied by Canadian industry. Switzerland and Liberia both purchased ground stations from Canada. A Canadian-supplied telephone system is operating in Saudi Arabia. India is buying office communications systems from Canada. A Canadian tele-education system is being installed in universities in Indonesia. And Canadian know-how in managing use of the radio frequency spectrum is helping the People's Republic of China.

Canada is considered an important donor country in helping to advance communications systems in developing countries. Through many Canadian and international organizations like the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Canada has helped plan, design and construct reliable telecommunications systems in various parts of the world. CIDA's bilateral telecommunications program now comprises some 30 projects in 23 countries. Most of these projects are in Africa, the Americas and in Asia.

CIDA is active in a number of important communications projects in Africa. A major one is the 2 800-kilometre PANAFTTEL microwave telecommunications system linking Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Benin in the Sahel region of West Africa. CIDA will be involved in an ongoing maintenance, development and training program for PANAFTTEL until 1989. In a more recent project, CIDA is providing technical assistance to the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), which is developing a communications system to strengthen regional ties among the nine member countries — Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Other African projects include a microwave system to communities in Rwanda and a new earth station and associated equipment for Zambia.

In the Americas, comprising Central America, South America and the Caribbean, CIDA contributes to a number of varied programs. Communications projects range from rebuilding the telephone system in Grenada to providing technical assistance, including training and management, in Brazil for the operation of their Canadian commercial satellites and ground control system.

CIDA's largest program is in Asia where it has several important telecommunications projects. A technical assistance project will help China operate its own satellite system and the major rehabilitation of the satellite earth station in Bangladesh will improve communications to rural areas. In the Philippines, where Canada is mounting a major initiative, CIDA is contributing to the development of a rural telecommunications system to help unite many of the islands.

Many of CIDA's telecommunications projects are sub-components of other assistance efforts. They include telecommunications systems for forestry, fishing, air transportation, railway and agriculture. In a major project to upgrade safety and physical maintenance at airports in 13 Commonwealth Caribbean countries, for example, a