

Nod to the world's northern-most lead-zinc mine

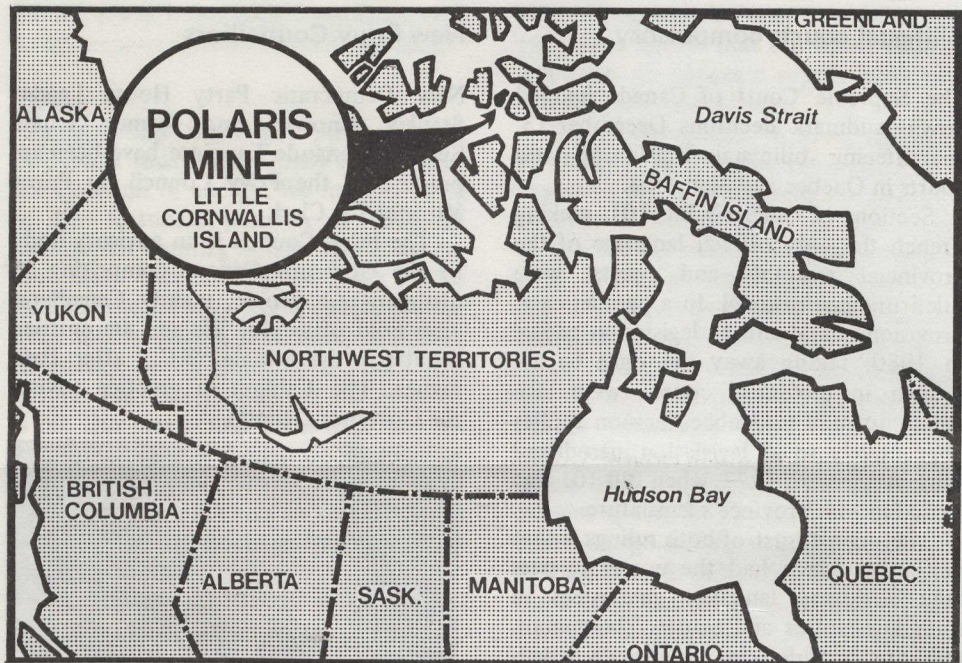
A Vancouver company was recently given Federal Government approval to operate the world's northernmost mine.

The Polaris lead-zinc mine, owned by Arvik Mines Ltd., a subsidiary of Cominco Ltd., is located on Little Cornwallis Island, about 145 kilometres south of the magnetic North Pole.

The mine, which will be built at a cost of \$150 million, is expected to employ about 250 people and have an annual payroll of about \$4.5 million.

The project is not expected to have any major socio-economic impact in the area because of its remoteness from any northern settlements. However, Northern Development Minister Jake Epp said he would ensure that benefits to northern residents were maximized by requiring the company to consult with northern communities to reach agreement regarding their interest and participation in the project.

For the first time in Canadian history, the mining project will use Canadian shipping despite a substantial cost penalty as



a concession to government policy, with Cominco agreeing to use the M.V. *Arctic* for half of the mine's production. The M.V. *Arctic* is a Canadian-built, -owned and -operated, ice-strengthened bulk carrier financially guaranteed by the Federal Government.

The deposit, which was discovered on Little Cornwallis Island in 1960, holds potential reserves of about 23 million tonnes of high-grade ore grading 4.3 percent lead and 14.1 percent zinc. Production on the island is expected to start in 1982 and to continue for 20 years.

No special immigration requirements for Iranians

Employment and Immigration Minister Ron Atkey said recently that students and visitors coming from Iran must meet normal immigration requirements to be allowed entry into Canada.

"There appears to be considerable public interest in the movement of these people from Iran because of recent circumstances in that country," said Mr. Atkey, "and I feel that I should make our position on this subject very clear. We have no special program for Iranian or any other students nor do we have any special restrictions. In processing applications from visitors and students from Iran, we apply the law as we would for students and visitors from any other country."

The Minister said that for students, the first requisite is a *bona fide* letter of acceptance from an accredited institution in Canada, which must be produced at an immigration office abroad at the time of application. The students must also be able to produce proof that they have and can transfer sufficient funds to pay for

tuition, books and maintenance during their stay in Canada and for their departure from Canada and that they must not expect to work in Canada to supplement their funds.

Also required is medical clearance, and proof of re-admissibility to their home country following their education. Motivation, ability to complete the selected course of study, and language ability are taken into account by visa officers.

Funds necessary

"With the present situation in Iran, our visa officers must have absolute iron-clad proof that students have the necessary funds available," Mr. Atkey explained. "Our officer in Tehran has been instructed to carefully investigate this aspect in each individual case," Mr. Atkey said.

"The same criteria apply to Iranian students who are now studying in the United States and might be thinking of coming to Canada," said Mr. Atkey. "They must apply for and receive their

student authorization and visa abroad before coming to Canada."

"Concerning visitors from Iran, whether they come from Iran directly or from a third country, they require a visitor's visa which must be issued by one of our visa officers abroad," the Minister explained.

No back-door entry

"Any student or visitor, who comes to Canada without the required documentation, will be subject to an immigration inquiry and if found to be illegally in Canada, subject to removal," Mr. Atkey said.

Iranians, who are now in the United States and wish to enter Canada for a short visit, must apply for the visa in the U.S. and submit proof that they are either re-admissible to the U.S. or willing and able to return to Iran or elsewhere following their stay.

"These requirements will ensure that persons wishing to immigrate to Canada will not be trying to use a 'back door' approach, while at the same time allowing *bona fide* students and visitors access to our country," said Mr. Atkey.