

---

## IDRC (Continued from P. 2)

MINISIS resource centres at strategic locations around the world, preferably at institutions that already have major programs of information processing and computer science, and, where possible, in association with postgraduate schools of information science.

Considerable interest has been shown by the francophone countries of Africa — in fact Tunisia and Zaire have already acquired minicomputers with the intention of installing MINISIS programs. Specialists from both countries spent two weeks in Ottawa being trained on the Centre's minicomputer. In response to the interest

from francophone developing countries, the information sciences division earlier this year drew up a two-year project to provide training and documentation for MINISIS in French and to ensure a capability for implementing and maintaining the program on minicomputer installation in francophone countries.

Computer science is advancing rapidly, and it is quite conceivable that the minicomputers will eventually be overtaken by the advent of microcomputers, which will be even less expensive. If and when that happens, many of the developing nations will already have gained the experience with MINISIS that will enable them to continue taking advantage of the latest technology.

---

## News briefs

**U.S. Secretary of Energy** Charles Duncan met with Energy Minister Marc Lalonde in Ottawa on March 24. The two ministers discussed the international energy situation, gas export pricing, synthetic fuel development, northern gas pipeline, energy conservation and other questions.

**Molson Companies Ltd. of Montreal** has agreed to purchase for about \$2 million (U.S.) the chemical specialties business of the Wyandott Corp. of Parsippany, New Jersey, a member of the BASF group. The acquisition is subject to regulatory approval and is expected to be completed in 60 days. The Wyandotte chemical specialties division markets in Canada, the United States and other countries more than 400 brand products for cleaning and sanitizing purposes. It had sales last year of about \$64 million from four plants in the United States and Canada with a total of 750 employees. Molson said the acquisition will become a part of Molson's Diversey Corp. unit.

**Alberta's Heritage Savings and Trust Fund** is nearing the \$6-billion mark. The

latest quarterly report — for the period ended December 31, 1979 — shows total assets at \$5.8 billion. The fund is made up of 30 per cent of royalties from sales of non-renewable natural resources such as oil.

**The Federal and Saskatchewan governments** recently signed a \$18-million agreement for the demonstration of energy conservation and renewable energy technologies. Under the four-year agreement, the governments will share equally the cost of projects that demonstrate the potential for energy savings or encourage the development and adoption of alternative energy sources. Criteria for project selection will include the cost-effectiveness of the proposal, contribution to provincial and national energy objectives, public accessibility and the technical merits of the proposals. The program will fund projects that have the potential for broad future applications.

**The Board of Directors of the Export Development Corporation (EDC)** has approved loans, surety and export credits insurance totalling \$359.14 million to support export sales of \$549.39 million to 14 countries. The countries are Argentina, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Britain, Greece, Hungary, Mexico, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, the United States and Yugoslavia. In announcing the approvals, EDC said that export sales which would result if commercial sales are finalized will create or maintain some 14,997 man-years of employment in Canada and will involve some 166 exporters and major suppliers across the country.

**A seven-year moratorium on uranium exploration** in British Columbia was announced on February 28 by the provincial government. Most uranium prospects in the province are largely in the exploration stage. The freeze terminates a Royal Commission set up in 1978 to set out guidelines for the approval of uranium development projects.

**The Air Cadet League of Canada** has captured the Nile Gold Medal in recognition of its work in the field of aerospace education. The medal is presented annually by the Aero Club of Egypt to the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI), which in turn awards it to the organization judged to be the most deserving. The Air Cadet League was commended for its promotion of aviation education in Canada and for developing, in co-operation with the Department of National Defence, a program which has involved more than 600,000 teen-aged air cadets since 1941.

**Cadillac Explorations Ltd. of Calgary** plans to develop a silver-lead-zinc mine in the Nahanni Valley of the Northwest Territories, at a cost of \$35 million. The company said construction is expected to begin this summer with initial production slated for late 1981. The mining and milling rate will be 1,000 tons daily. Cadillac said a feasibility study shows the mine will produce two million ounces of silver, 55,000 tons of lead and 5,000 tons of zinc annually.

**Sask Tel, Saskatchewan's Crown-owned telecommunications company,** made a profit of \$25.2 million in 1979, up from \$19.5 million in 1978. The company's annual report showed last year's revenues at \$197 million and expenditures at \$140 million.

**Mitel Corporation of Ottawa** has signed a \$2.5 million contract with Telecom SARRL, a division of Al Bassam International of Saudi Arabia, to supply super-switch electronic equipment to Saudi Arabia during the next year.

**The University of British Columbia (UBC) student chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers** has been awarded a 1979 Award of Excellence by the institute for "outstanding achievement in activities relating to furthering the goals of professionalism and chemical engineering among students...". The award to the UBC student chapter is one of 11 made annually by the institute on a regional basis. A total of 131 student chapters are eligible for the awards.

---

*Canada Weekly* is published by the External Information Programs Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to the editor.

*Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.*

*Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticario de Canadá.*