



Production superintendent Bob Buchan (right) currently seconded by PCIAC to Barbados National Oil Company (BNOOC) inspects facilities with field engineer.

Projects are already under way in several countries, including Barbados and Jamaica in the Caribbean, Senegal, Gambia and Tanzania in Africa, Thailand and the Philippines in Asia, while a regional marine seismic survey is under preparation in the Windward Islands.

In October 1983, a \$3.675-million agreement was signed whereby PCIAC will provide oil and gas exploration assistance to the government of Haiti. PCIAC will re-evaluate offshore hydrocarbon prospects using the Canadian seismic vessel *Bernier*, the first Canadian-designed, built, owned and operated ship of its kind.

PCIAC has also approved new projects to provide offshore drilling assistance in Ghana and Morocco and will shortly

undertake a marine seismic survey, again using the *Bernier*, in Sri Lanka.

The aid budget for all PCIAC projects has doubled from \$20 million in 1982 to \$40 million in 1983, and is expected to grow to \$60 million in 1984. These funds are used to provide a wide array of Canadian goods and services, often introducing competent Canadian companies to new areas of activity in the Third World, and providing a basis for further commercial opportunities in these countries.

As there is annually a degree of seasonal availability in the petroleum industry, as well as some cyclical slack recently, these firms can pursue their current levels of activity in Canada while working abroad to help increase worldwide availability of oil and gas and reduce the burden of oil import costs for the poorest countries.

In August 1981, Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau announced the creation of PCIAC as a subsidiary of Petro-Canada, Canada's national oil company: "Its purpose will be to assist oil-importing developing countries to exploit their own energy resources, particularly hydrocarbons. This new company will provide development assistance directly to Third World countries, and will also be available as an executing agent for other institutions, such as the World Bank."

Further information about PCIAC is available from: Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation, Suite 707, 350 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1R 7S8. Tel.: (613) 238-8951.

Minister visits Brazil and Colombia

The Minister of State (External Relations) Jean-Luc Pepin visited Brazil and Colombia from November 21-26.

In Brazil, Mr. Pepin and the Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ramiro Seraiva Guerreiro inaugurated the first meeting of the Canada-Brazil Political Affairs Consultative Committee. Mr. Pepin also held bilateral consultations with Minister Guerreiro and other Brazilian ministers. In São Paulo, he addressed the Brazil-Canada Chamber of Commerce, and in Rio de Janeiro officially opened the new offices of the Consulate General of Canada.

In Bogotá, Colombia, Mr. Pepin held political consultations with the Colombian Minister of Foreign Affairs Rodrigo Lloreda and other members of the Colombian government. He also signed agreements relating to Canada's program of development co-operation.

Canada-France research pact signed

The federal Department of Communications has signed a scientific exchange agreement with a major research centre in France to study the social effects of communications technology, it was announced recently by Communications Minister Francis Fox. Two federal researchers from the new Informatics Research Centre in Laval, Quebec will begin work immediately at the World Centre for Information and Human Resources in Paris.

Under the exchange, French researchers will visit the Laval centre regularly. The exchange is a step toward the realization of a plan to link technology centres in a global network, according to president of the world centre Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber.

Speaking in Ottawa recently, Mr. Servan-Schreiber gave what one analyst termed a cataclysmic view of the industrialized world's failure to come to grips with the human side of technological change.

"No country has put in place the effort required to retrain and educate workers and citizens to use all these new technologies and this is a collective crime," he said. "There is no longer a North and a South — our economies and societies are ravaged, obsolete, outmoded and so many of our citizens are technologically illiterate."



The seismic vessel Bernier, the first Canadian-designed, built, owned and operated ship of its kind. It will be used to re-evaluate offshore hydrocarbon prospects in Haiti and for a marine seismic survey in Sri Lanka.