Caribbean airport expands

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan recently opened the new Golden Rock Air Terminal Building near Basseterre, St. Kitts.

Canada contributed $2.8 million to the total cost of the $3.3-million terminal. A Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) grant was provided for the modification and expansion of the original building, furnishings, equipment and other related material. Transport Canada has been the executing agency.

In this speech at the ceremonial opening Dr. MacGuigan noted that the new terminal would facilitate an increase in the flow of visitors to St. Kitts-Nevis, which would contribute to the growth of the island's economy and its longer term development. He stressed that the ultimate objective of development must be that countries become self-reliant and prosperous and cited the completion of the airport as a practical step in this direction for St. Kitts-Nevis.

The airport is expected to handle 22 flights and up to 1,100 visitors a day at the height of the tourist season, with the capability to meet future growth in air traffic and visitors well into the late 1980s.

In addition to providing substantial financial assistance to major international airports in Antigua and Barbados, Canada has provided CIDA grants to complete the modernization of regional airports in Dominica, Montserrat, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, as well as Golden Rock Airport at St. Kitts.

Peace group wants satellite

A University of Toronto scientists' committee called Science for Peace is trying to raise $1 billion for a peace-keeping surveillance satellite.

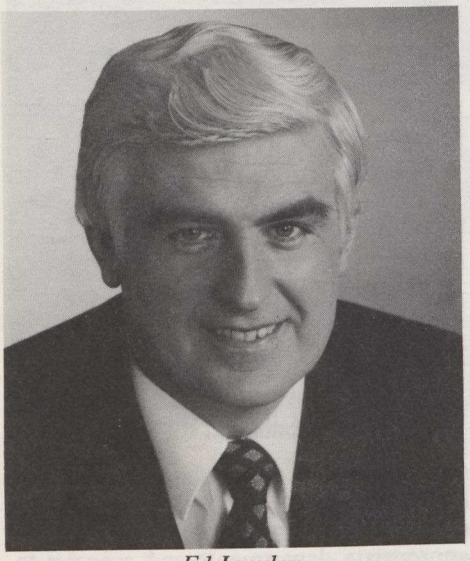
The 28-member committee says it will approach the Canadian government for funding of the satellite, and also the governments of France, Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

Physicist Lynn Trainor said that countries other than the two nuclear superpowers, United States and the Soviet Union, need their own source of satellite surveillance.

The satellite could assess the ground-based strength of nuclear missile sites.

Trade minister visits India and Egypt

Canadian Trade Minister Ed Lumley visited India last month to discuss increased trade co-operation between the two countries.



Ed Lumley

The visit was intended primarily to assist Canadian companies that are attempting to market aircraft and aircraft engines, locomotives, hydro-electric generation and iron processing equipment and services.

Mr. Lumley, accompanied by senior representatives from the companies concerned, met with several Indian ministers to support these major trade opportunities.

The mission was part of a Canadian initiative with India to further industrial co-operation, particularly in the aerospace sector.

During his visit, Mr. Lumley signed two agreements worth $89 million for agricultural aid and for the production of hydro-electric power. One of the contracts was for the second phase of construction of the Idukku hydro-electric station in the State of Kerala.

The minister also discussed five Canadian projects in the areas of aerospace, energy, processing of minerals and transportation.

The Indian government indicated it would study a Canadian proposal to provide technology for the manufacture of aircraft and engines based on the De Havilland short-take-off-and-landing (STOL) aircraft and turbine engines by Pratt and Whitney Canada.

Further co-operation between Canada and India in the steel and mines sector was examined including a proposed pelletisation plant at Managalore and a shore-based steel plant at Paradeep.

An offer of Bombardier locomotives to India was also discussed and negotiations on a possible sale are underway.

On his return from India, Mr. Lumley stopped in Egypt following up on Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's visit in December 1980. Canadian businesses are pursuing a number of trade opportunities in that country to supply aircraft, locomotives, a steel rolling mill, as well as, pulp and paper projects.

Nuclear fuel disposal studied

Used fuel from Canada's nuclear reactors, when disposed of in a deep geologic disposal vault would not pose any significant hazard to man at any time, according to an Atomic Energy of Canada Limited report.

The report says that, while an analysis of the long-term impact of an immobilized fuel disposal vault is preliminary in nature, studies made so far support the view that nuclear fuel wastes can be safely disposed of by deep underground burial in a geologically stable hard rock formation.

The results of the analysis are contained in the second annual report of the Canadian Nuclear Fuel Waste Management Program. The report notes that the program is now well established with participation from a wide cross-section of Canada's scientific and engineering community.

As the program has developed, the report notes, it has become evident that geotechnical experiments are needed on a scale and in an environment that can only be achieved underground. Therefore, proposals are being made to build an underground research laboratory near the Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment in Pinawa near Winnipeg. Several other countries have shown interest in the laboratory, which will not involve the use of radioactive waste materials at any time.

The report summarizes the fuel waste management research projects conducted during 1980 and the results that have been obtained so far. Single copies of the report are available from the Scientific Document Distribution Office, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, Chalk River, Ontario, K0J 1J0.