

Rendez-vous Canada in Calgary

The sixth annual Rendez-vous Canada, the international marketplace for buyers and sellers of Canadian tourism products and services, will be held May 16-20, 1982 in Calgary.

The marketplace will be held at the Calgary Convention Centre, where international buyers from countries around the world will meet with Canadian sellers in computerized business sessions.

From its beginnings in Toronto in 1977, through successive tourism marketplaces in Vancouver, Montreal and Winnipeg, sales volume written, placed or projected has totalled more than \$150 million.

The target for the fifth annual Rendez-vous Canada, which will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, May 17-21, 1981 is \$60 million in business transactions.

More than 700 delegates are expected to be on hand in Halifax, including 200 buying organizations from 16 international travel markets and approximately 275 selling organizations.

Rendez-vous Canada is sponsored annually by the Canadian Government Office of Tourism and the provincial, territorial and municipal governments of Canada in co-operation with the private sector of the tourism industry.

Cable TV licensing reviewed

Communications Minister Francis Fox has announced that his department will review the federal government's microwave system licensing policy in view of increasing requirements for the intercity delivery of TV program signals.

Mr. Fox noted that in a recent decision, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) approved distribution of special programming, such as children's programming, proceedings of the Ontario Legislature, TV broadcast repeats and others by cable companies in a number of central Ontario communities.

Mr. Fox added that the CRTC also said in its decision that it encourages the introduction of new and imaginative services and will continue to study applications for the provision of such new services on a case-by-case basis. "As a result," Mr. Fox said, "we can expect a number of such applications. Our current microwave licensing policy and our radio fre-

quency spectrum allocation policies should be reviewed at this time to see if additional spectrum should be made available for this purpose."

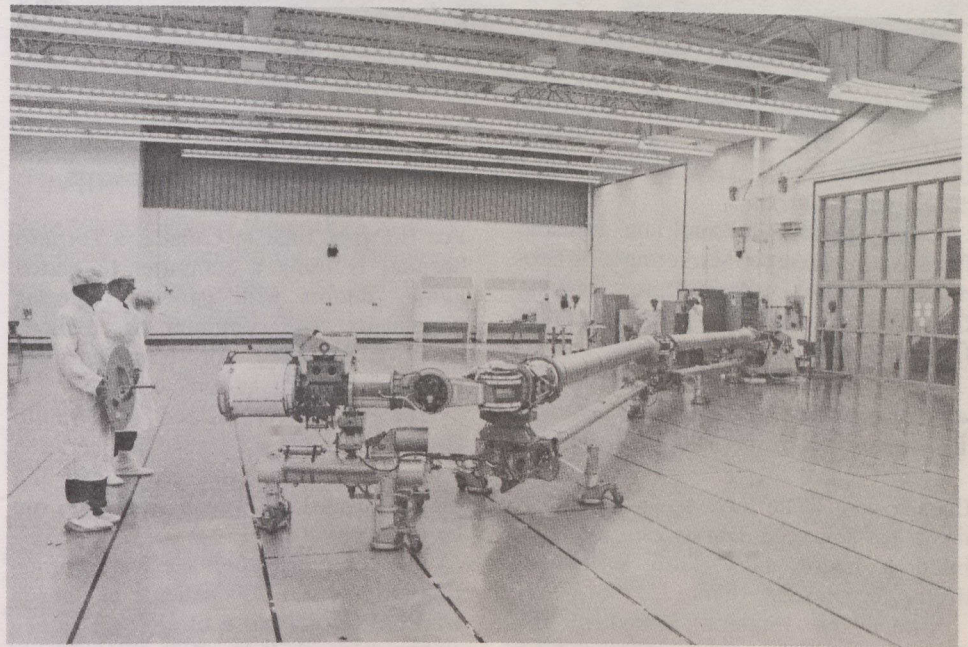
In dealing with intercity microwave applications, Mr. Fox said his department has identified a number of major policy issues requiring consideration and resolution. Some of these issues are as follows:

- the present microwave licensing and frequency allocation policies provide only for trunking of a limited number of video channels;
- granting a private commercial licence

raises concerns about sharing, reasonable access, charges, operational arrangements and other conditions related to the use by others of the services or facilities;

- private commercial microwave networks may have a significant impact on the capability of common carriers to maintain and extend telecommunications services to the public; and
- implementation of extensive intercity microwave facilities to serve urban areas may inhibit extension of new programming services to people in areas which can only be effectively served by satellite.

Scientists make eye for Canadian-designed robot arm



The remote manipulator system, a mechanical arm, will assist Space Shuttle astronauts in deploying and receiving payloads.

Two scientists from the National Research Council of Canada have developed an "eye" for the Canadian-designed robot arm that astronauts will depend on during future voyages of the United States space shuttle.

The eye is an electronic substitution for human vision, said the scientists who recently demonstrated the device to U.S. space officials.

The arm, called the remote manipulator system, will help to deliver and retrieve satellites in and out of orbit from the U.S. space shuttle.

The space shuttle's first mission is scheduled for March 31.

The machine vision system developed by Lloyd Pinkney, an engineering physicist, and Charles Perratt, a digital com-

puter programming expert, is more accurate than human vision because it does not succumb to optical illusions. It is also just as fast.

Pinkney and Perratt said that scientists from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) were impressed with the tests.

The system eliminates cumbersome memory units and weighs only about 11 kilograms (25 pounds).

Pinkney got the idea for the eye five years ago after NASA asked the Council to work on the problem.

What he developed is a combination of sophisticated geometric mathematics processed by computer. Perratt translated the thousands of equations into programming.