

Canada's rapidly-expanding computer technology will be featured at SICOB '83 to be held in Paris at the Palais du CNIT, La Défense, from September 21-30, 1983. SICOB '83 brings together the latest products in computer technology and will include exhibits from several Canadian computer firms.

ware program which sells for \$100 and turns a popular home computer, the Commodore 64, into an interactive videotex terminal. The company plans to develop similar packages for the IBM personal computer (PC) and the Apple before the end of the year. Avcor also unveiled its high resolution slide conversion service. The system can process NAPLPS graphics into high resolution 35 mm slides overnight for \$15 a slide.

Two Ottawa companies, Microstar and Microtaure, demonstrated their software packages which allow microcomputers to be used for graphics creation, videotex data bases etc. Available for less than \$500, Microtaure's TELIgraph and Microstar's Videotex Interpretor for the IBM PC are among the lowest priced micro conversion packages available. Microtaure also displayed its TELIgraph software on a prototype of the new Japanese NEC computer, expected to reach the North American market this month.

Formic of Montreal showed its NAPLPS software for Apple microcomputers and announced the inauguration of its internal videotex network for Systemhouse Inc. Apple terminals with the Formic package will be installed in each of Systemhouse's 16 branches across North America to provide frame creation, data base management, indexing, information retrieval and a training language.

Limicon of Toronto unveiled its GraphEase page creation system for Commodore personal computers. The software package sells for \$1 000 and includes 96 macros, full NAPLPS colour palettes, high resolution page creation and a variable animation window. A complete turnkey system, including the micro hardware is priced at \$5 000 and can produce NAPLPS frames for less than \$2 000.

On display for the first time was Digital Equipment Corp.'s Rainbow 100 personal computer which operates with Cablesare software and includes a graphics tablet and videotex decoder.

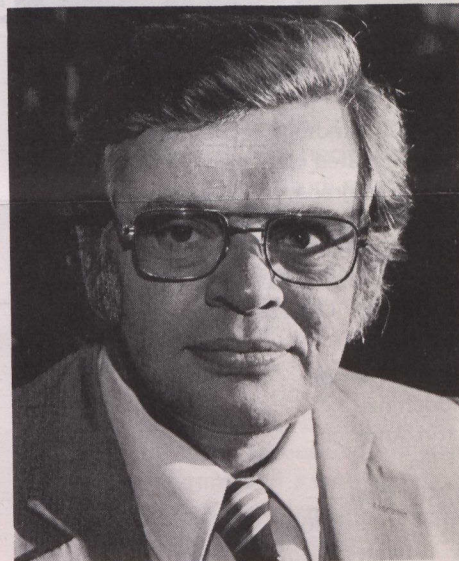
AEL Microtel of Burnaby, British Columbia demonstrated its NTSC-

compatible decoder board with signals of sufficient quality to be mixed with video broadcast signals and able to support a broad range of audio-visual applications.

IBM announced it will support the North American standard and offer PLP software for its IBM SVS/1.1 Videotex System in addition to the Prestel software it now carries. IBM's endorsement of the NAPLPS protocol is expected to create important opportunities for Canadian suppliers such as Norpak, Microtaure and Cablesare whose equipment was included in the IBM display. IBM has already signed an agreement with Norpak Corp. to provide videotex decoders and frame creation systems for its new terminals. IBM predicts that NAPLPS' expanded graphics capability will extend the use of PCs to new business areas including advertising departments, business forecasting and planning groups.

Award for northern science

Indian and Northern Affairs Minister John Munro has announced the creation of an annual award for northern science to commemorate this year's centenary of the first International Polar Year. The award — consisting of a specially inscribed medal and a \$5 000 cash prize — will be given in recognition of individual contributions to the Canadian north through scientific activity.



Indian and Northern Affairs Minister John Munro.

Mr. Munro announced the award during an address to the Third Inuit Circumpolar Conference in Frobisher Bay. He reminded delegates of the significance of the first International Polar

Year in which scientists from 11 nations came to the Arctic to carry out a carefully co-ordinated research program from August 1882 to September 1883.

The original International Polar Year was the first scientific enterprise and the most significant single event in the founding of the science of geophysics. Fifteen expeditions, sponsored by 11 different nations, visited the Arctic and Antarctic regions to carry out a carefully planned set of simultaneous observations of magnetism, aurora, meteorology, earth currents, ground temperatures, geodetic locations, tidal behaviour and atmospheric electricity.

To this program were added a variety of geological, oceanographic and natural history studies. The expeditions were supplemented by co-ordinated observations at 35 established observatories in 20 countries in Europe, Asia and North and South America, by a dozen special stations in sub-polar latitudes, and by the first co-ordinated attempts at synoptic marine meteorology on the North Atlantic and South Atlantic oceans. The planning and co-ordination of this enormous undertaking as well as the rapid production and dissemination of the results marked an entirely new approach to science as an international and co-operative activity.

The emphasis on rigorous observation and sharing of results has strongly influenced the concept of science in all disciplines in the subsequent century.

Aid to refugees

Canada will grant a total of \$5 million to aid refugees in Central America, Thailand and Sudan, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen announced recently.

A \$1-million grant will be given to Thailand where a long-term refugee situation affects some 186 000 people. A grant of \$3 million will be given to help up to 200 000 Central American refugees mainly from El Salvador, but also from Guatemala and Nicaragua. An additional \$1-million grant to Sudan will assist the half-million refugees from Ethiopia and Uganda.

Mr. MacEachen also announced that Canada will provide a grant of \$500 000 to aid Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The situation in Pakistan is one of the most critical in the world: there are now more refugees in that country than in any other.