

Telidon networks begin in Canada and abroad



Communications Minister Francis Fox (far right) opens Canadian network.

Telidon, Canada's two-way television technology, is expanding in Canada and around the world with the announcement of a sale to West Germany and the start of an international network in Canadian embassies.

The federal Department of Communications has announced the sale of Telidon equipment, software and services to a West German electronics company, while Teleglobe Canada of Montreal has announced the availability in a number of countries of what is considered to be the first international data base using Telidon technology.

The sale to Siemens AG of West Germany was facilitated by a standing agreement on science and technology between the Canadian and West German governments. Infomart of Toronto and Norpak Limited of Ottawa will sell between \$10 million and \$15 million worth of Telidon equipment to Siemens. The agreement will allow the West German company to add the technically advanced videotex alpha-geometric option to its videotex components.

International system begins

At the same time Teleglobe Canada, the Crown corporation which operates Canada's international telecommunications network, announced that it is introducing the first international Telidon information network, called Novatex. Starting this fall the data base will be available to international organizations by

way of standard telephones and data networks through Canadian embassies abroad.

Telidon terminals have been installed in Canadian embassies and consulates in Washington, Chicago, Bonn, Mexico City, Brussels and London. By March of next year a total of 19 embassies, including several in the Far East will have Telidon terminals in place.

The Novatex data base uses a Telidon data base to provide information to specific industries such as mining and metals, agriculture and food processing, energy and international trade.

Up to 100,000 pages of information will be stored in a central computer in Toronto. The overseas machines will be connected to the central information bank by long-distance telephone and data lines.

Because of the interactive nature of Telidon, the organizations can use Novatex to send their own private, internal information to branch offices throughout the world.

Prior to the announcement of the sale of Telidon, the federal Department of Communications began a cross-Canada network of 30 terminals. The terminals have been placed in libraries, post offices and government departments across Canada. The aim of the \$1.2-million federal project is to permit Canadians to experience first-hand the new technology as well as offering easy access to government information.

Monastery marks 100 years

The Trappist monks at the monastery on the Lake of Two Mountains in Oka, Quebec are celebrating the one-hundredth anniversary of its founding this year, reports the *Canadian Press*.

Known mainly for the cheese it developed and produced until it sold the recipe and installations to private interests a few years ago, the Oka monastery remains rather mysterious to the public.

But this summer, visitors were welcomed at the well-landscaped grey stone buildings about 60 kilometres northwest of Montreal, where the Ottawa River flows into the St. Lawrence.

They viewed art exhibits which illustrate some of the lively history of the Trappist monastery or climbed the mountain with its seven stations of the cross.

Hard beginnings

The Roman Catholic community began when five monks from Bellefontaine, near Nantes, France, settled down in the hilly country of Oka in 1881. They had a difficult beginning with the severe cold in winter, ferocious mosquitoes in summer and a chronic lack of money.

The Bishop of Montreal had to make a public appeal for aid for the beleaguered monks. Local people offered vegetables, two priests each gave a cow and a Montreal parish provided a tip-cart. The monks were on their way to an agricultural calling.

Eight years later the community had grown to 40 persons despite a series of fires that destroyed their sawmill, flour mill and bakery and the monastery itself. One monk recorded: "The thirteenth of September 1918, for the fourth time, the community is moving into a new building. This time, it is fireproof."

Excelled in farming

The monks became masters in the art of farming. In 1908 the Oka Agricultural Institute became a faculty of the University of Montreal.

Brother Alphonse Juin, nicknamed Frère Fromage (Brother Cheese), developed the tangy cheese which still bears the name Oka. The Chanteclerc hen was born on the Oka farm under the guidance of Brother Wilfrid Chatelain, a doctor in agronomy science and raiser of rabbits, dogs, pheasants and poultry.

Today the estate is directed by Dom Fidèle Sauvageau. It was run under the absolute rule of Dom Pacome Gaboury.