

Trade update

Canadian International Trading Partners presents Canada's position in international trade from 1970 to 1984 using more than 80 coloured charts. Copies cost \$26 (Cdn) and are available from Statistics Canada.

Ontario companies more than doubled their sales in China in 1985, exporting goods valued at \$163 million, up 136 per cent from the previous year. More than 40 per cent of export sales was in fully manufactured products — including office machinery and equipment, telecommunications equipment, computer equipment and software, chemical products, aircraft engines and motor vehicle parts.

Bombardier Inc. of Montreal has won a \$100-million (US) contract from New Jersey Transit to build new rail cars and overhaul older ones for the state's commuter train network. Under the deal Bombardier will add 20 new cars to the 117-car *Comet 2* fleet it delivered to the transit system in 1982. The Quebec company will also add seating to 147 older cars.

The de Havilland Aircraft Company, a Division of Boeing of Canada Limited of Downsview, Ontario is receiving financing support valued at \$37.1 million (US) from the Export Development Corporation for a sale of four *DHC-5D Buffalo* aircraft, spare parts, support services and ground support equipment to the Republic of Kenya.

Inco Ltd. of Toronto has signed a contract with Robot Defence Systems (RDS) Inc. of San Francisco to develop a robotic vehicle for mine development and ore hauling. Inco is retaining a five-year exclusive right to manufacture and market mining vehicles incorporating the RDS technology.

Kadoke Display Ltd. of Toronto was awarded a contract by the British Overseas Trade Board to erect exhibits at 55 trade fairs and exhibitions taking place between April 1986 and March 1987 in North American cities. Estimated value of the contract for Kadoke Display is \$2.25 million.

Pre-Con Co. of Brampton, Ontario has received a contract valued at \$11 million from Beacon-O'Connell Joint Venture of Boston, Massachusetts. Pre-Con will supply precast concrete facing units for Rowes Wharf in the Boston Harbour area.

News briefs

The Department of the Environment is conducting a major experiment on Arctic haze with scientists from the United States and Europe as part of an international study on the extent of pollution in the Arctic. The work should help scientists understand pollution in the Arctic, its potential effects on climate, the acidification of Arctic land and water ecosystems and degradation in visibility in the Arctic atmosphere, said Environment Minister Tom McMillan. Arctic haze is a condition that exists when industrial pollutants are found in layers of haze.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation issued preliminary figures showing that housing starts during March were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 174 000 for all areas in Canada. The final February rate was 181 000. Actual starts in urban areas in March were 8 518, which was an increase of 20 per cent from the 7 077 recorded in March 1985.

Canadian and United States mining researchers have begun a co-operative research program on rock mechanics and ground control. The new program will pro-

vide the mining industry of both countries with new technology that will lead to a reduction in mine accidents caused by ground movement such as roof falls and rockbursts.

Five Canadian-designed nuclear reactors were among the top 15 performers in the world in 1985, according to statistics compiled for 212 large commercial reactors in 18 countries. They include New Brunswick Power's Pt. Lepreau station, second; Ontario Hydro's Bruce 1, Pickering 7 and Bruce 3, fourth, seventh and fourteenth respectively; and the Canadian-built South Korean CANDU, at Wolsung, fifth.

Statistic Canada's Labour Force Survey for March 1986 indicates that there was little change in labour market conditions. The estimates show that while employment remained virtually unchanged, the seasonally adjusted level of unemployment declined by 23 000 — lowering the unemployment rate to 9.6 per cent.

Federal Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement and Spouse's Allowance benefits were increased in April to keep them in line with the cost of living. The universal Old Age Security pension, paid to people 65 and older, rose to \$288.34 (from \$285.20) a month in April, May and June.

Poultry marketing



Agriculture Canada

More than 7 000 chicks, only six hours old, are loaded onto an aircraft in Toronto, for delivery in Madrid, Spain. In 1984, some 2.5 million chicks, worth more than \$11 million, were exported to 35 countries. Canada also has a 25 per cent market share of the world's white egg business, about 10 per cent of the world broiler market, and 5 per cent of the brown egg market.

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Editor: Carole Stelmack.

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