

News briefs

Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark and Minister of Environment Suzanne Blais-Grenier have announced that Canada will send ecologist M. Jackson to assist in determining the environmental consequences of the raging fire on Isabela, the largest of the Galapagos Islands World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve, which belong to Ecuador. The fire started in early March and has threatened the survival of unique fauna, including giant land turtles. Earlier the government of Quebec despatched three experts to the islands to determine the nature of the problem and they also provided two CANSO water bombers to help flight the fire.

Agriculture Canada held a one-day seminar in Winnipeg, Manitoba, May 9 to promote agricultural trade between Canada and Mexico. The seminar was hosted by Canadian Wheat Board Minister Charles Mayer and attended by Mexican Secretary of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources Eduardo Pesqueira Oléa, who was in Canada for a seven-day visit to meet with Canadian agricultural officials. Canadian producers, Mexican and Canadian government officials and international shipping agents and carriers also attended. Information to facilitate exporting to Mexico was published by Agriculture Canada in *Canada-Mexico: A Guide to the Physical Distribution of Agricultural Products*.

Minister for External Relations Monique Vézina has announced that the federal government will contribute \$200 000 to relief efforts for victims of the cyclone that left thousands dead or missing in coastal areas of southern Bangladesh. The contribution is a response to an international appeal for aid launched by the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The league is seeking a total of \$2.2 million to provide food, clothing, shelter and medical supplies to 120 000 people in the worst-affected areas. The Canadian Red Cross Society has donated \$20 000 to the international effort.

Gandalf Technologies Inc. of Manotick, Ontario, a leading designer, manufacturer and supplier of electronic data communications equipment and information network systems, has reached an agreement in principle to acquire Eurotech B.V. in the Netherlands. Gandalf Nederland will be responsible for marketing, installing and maintaining Gandalf's data communications equipment and information network systems in the Netherlands. Gandalf Technologies Inc. operates through subsidiaries in Canada, the United States, Britain, Switzerland and Australia.

Leigh Instruments Limited of Ottawa, Ontario, has announced that two British helicopter operators have agreed to purchase 80 deployable crash position indicators, which assist in the location of downed aircraft. The crash beacons are installed on the outside of

aircraft structures and turned on automatically in a crash. The deal is worth more than \$1 million. In addition the company has received a \$30-million contract from the Canadian government to supply 40 tactical air-navigation systems. The government also took an option for 20 more navigational systems.

Statistics Canada has predicted that there will be a 5 per cent increase in construction activity across Canada this year. Activity is expected to increase to \$58.962 billion in 1985, compared with \$56.13 billion last year and \$55.947 billion in 1983. Forestry construction shows the largest percentage increase, with the value of work projected for 1985 being 16.1 per cent higher than in 1984. Mining construction activity is expected to increase 13.4 per cent and construction in the finance sector is expected to rise 11.7 per cent.

The Export Development Corporation has signed a \$41.68-million (Cdn) financing agreement to support a sale by The de Havilland Aircraft of Canada, Limited of Downsview, Ontario, to LIAT (1974) Ltd. of St. John's, Antigua, West Indies. The sale involves the supply of five *Dash-8* aircraft, spare parts and related equipment.

ABI Biotechnology of Winnipeg, Manitoba and Bio-Technology General Corp. of New York have an agreement in principle for clinical testing and commercial development in Canada of a human growth hormone produced by recombinant-DNA technology. The hormone is used for treatment of dwarfism and has potential use in treating bone fractures, burns and bleeding ulcers.

Logicaid Limited of Nepean, Ontario has introduced VCC which is designed for a market that includes home video retailers and renters. The system handles point-of-sale functions, inventory maintenance, customer profiling, management information, financial accounts and reports. Transactions created at a point of sale are automatically posted to a general ledger. VCC's features include reservation of rental items, an optional bar-code reading facility for batch returns, and tracking of equipment for periodic preventive maintenance. Its accounting system can be retrofitted to previous systems.

Modulator retransmits satellite signals



The SM36 designed and manufactured by Electrohome Limited of Kitchener, Ontario, is a modulator that takes detected baseband audio and video signals from a satellite receiver, a video tape recorder, or camera and retransmits them as selected on as many as 36 different television channels. The company also manufactures the SR24, a micro-processor-controlled satellite receiver designed for cable systems and the SRM-36 which adds a full output modulator to the SR24. Electrohome was one of 11 Canadian companies that have made advances in the communications industry and participated in Canada's exhibition at CAST '85, held in Birmingham, England from April 16 to 18.

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