

News briefs

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has announced that it has provided financing of \$23.4 million (US) to support a sale by Bombardier Inc. and training and technical assistance services by Tecsuit International Limitée, Montréal, Québec, to l'Office du Chemin de Fer Transgabonais of The Republic of Gabon. The project involves the sale of eight locomotives, 12 diesel engines and spare parts by Bombardier Inc. as well as training and technical assistance services to be provided by Tecsuit International.

Canada Post Corp. has extended its priority post mail service to six new countries and is negotiating with ten others to begin the reciprocal service. The courier service that guarantees next-day delivery of mail upon arrival in the country it's destined for, has been extended to Denmark, Finland, Norway, Italy, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia, bringing to 28 the number of countries where priority post is offered. The agreement means both countries agree to handle priority post items within 24 hours of receiving them.

Microtel Limited, a unit of British Columbia Telephone Co. of Burnaby, British

Columbia, has signed a two-year agreement worth \$6 million with Hughes Aircraft Company of Los Angeles to supply electronic components. The agreement is an extension of a contract that Microtel won last year. The components will be manufactured at its plant in Brockville, Ontario.

Former Prime Minister John Diefenbaker's family papers, correspondence with his wives and relatives and personal documents pertaining to family members were recently opened to researchers at the University of Saskatchewan. The documents, described as the most extensive collection devoted to the family of a Canadian political figure, are available at the University's John Diefenbaker Centre and on microfilm at the Public Archives in Ottawa.

Trillium Telephone Systems Inc. of Kanata, Ontario has signed its first agreement with a US telephone company. Central Telephone Co. of Chicago has agreed to purchase Trillium's *TalkTo 308* and *TalkTo 616* key telephone systems, the company's electronic systems designed for business use. The deal could be worth up to \$1 million for Trillium over the next year, said Paul Wilker, the executive vice-president of the company.

The Royal Bank of Canada is planning

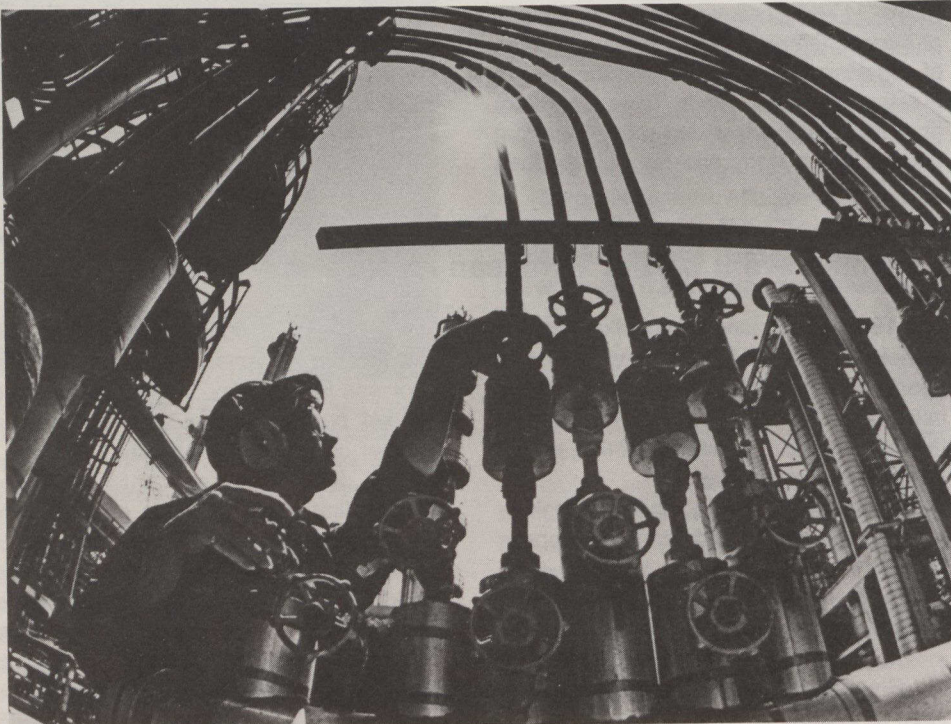
to apply to set up a branch in Madrid, Spain. The bank, which has had a representative office in Madrid since 1981, has recently co-sponsored and organized trade missions and has generally been raising its profile as Spain awaits entry into the European Economic Community. The Royal Bank is by far the most active Canadian bank in the Iberian Peninsula and the only one currently planning to expand its role there.

Minister for External Relations Monique Vézina met with Secretary-General of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation François Owono-Nguema at the annual technical meeting of the Committee for the Special Development Program held in Edmundston, New Brunswick, from October 16 to 18. The main questions of concern to the francophone agency, its 30 member states, seven associate states and two participating governments, Quebec and New Brunswick, were discussed at the meeting.

Newsweek magazine, owned by Washington Post Co. of Washington, began publishing a Canadian advertising edition, *Newsweek Canada*, on November 5 and is planning to open a bureau in Canada next year. Mark Edmiston, president of the New York based publication, said the company is expanding its role in Canada in response to "a growing demand for *Newsweek* by Canadian readers and advertisers". Since May 1983, *Newsweek's* Canadian circulation has increased to some 85 000 from 54 600.

Rick Mannen, of Brantford, Ontario, recently beat 1 450 other runners to win the eleventh annual Skylon International Marathon. The 26-year-old winner broke away from a pack of several runners at the halfway mark and raced alone for the last 14 kilometres of the 42.195-kilometre course that began in Buffalo and ended in Niagara Falls, Canada. His time was two hours 19.40 seconds. Martin Dixon, also of Brantford was second and Terry Stanley of Eldred, Pennsylvania, was third.

Checking up for crude oil efficiency



A worker at Suncor Incorp's recently upgraded Sarnia refinery makes a systems check. The upgrading allows the plant, now one of the most efficient in Canada, to produce a wider range of fuels and petrochemicals while using a third less crude oil. The project, which was officially completed in September, cost \$300 million.

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