

**Canadian appointed to UNESCO post**

J.H. Hodgson, Director of the Earth Physics Branch, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, has accepted a temporary UNESCO post to Southeast Asia as adviser to the United Nations Development Program in the field of seismology. The mission began on April 1.

During the two-month assignment, Dr. Hodgson will visit Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Hong Kong to gather information on methods of strengthening the regional seismological network in Southeast Asia. The itinerary includes stops in Australia, New Zealand and Japan for consultation with these governments on their participation in the project.

The object is to find effective means to strengthen this area's seismological instruments, an expanded training program, and greater facilities for the consolidation, handling and transmission of data.

**Sport whaling ban**

Canada has banned the killing of beluga whales for sport. In a joint statement recently, Environment Minister Jack Davis and Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Jean Chrétien announced that no licences would be issued for sport whaling this summer in Hudson Bay, or elsewhere in Canada. "This decision is due to continuing concern about the so-called 'sports' aspect of this activity and the hunting methods used," the Ministers said. "Amateur hunters, using harpoon and rifle, can inflict needless suffering. Moreover, those who are familiar with the habits of beluga whales advise that this hunt can scarcely be called a sport, since it is like 'shooting fish in a barrel'." The mammals have no opportunity to

escape, and show no inclination to try to do so."

Belugas are members of the dolphin family. They average 12 feet in length and weigh 1,000 pounds. The white-skinned mammals are found in the Arctic, mainly in Hudson Bay, and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Licences to allow sport hunting of belugas were first issued in 1965 as an offshoot of a commercial whaling venture at Churchill, Manitoba. Sport catches were low, reaching a peak of 16 in 1968. No sport catches have been made since the closing of the Churchill plant in 1969.

Officials of the federal Departments of the Environment and Indian and Northern Affairs are still investigating possible means of utilizing the white whale resources as an income source for northern residents.

**Air-traffic control simulation centre**

A project that will eventually cost \$4,367,000, for the acquisition of a Canadian air-traffic control simulation centre has been initiated by a \$399,795-contract award for the installation of a central computer complex.

The contract, awarded to Digital Equipment of Canada Ltd., Ottawa, is one of the many that will be awarded over the next two years to hardware manufacturers and Canadian consultants. It will result in the development and acquisition of a simulation centre that will supply Canada with a progressive research and development facility unsurpassed it is claimed, elsewhere in the world.

Further contracts for display subsystems and communications equipment will be announced shortly, and completion of the simulation centre is expected next year, with "refinements" to be added on a continuing basis thereafter.

The Centre, which will be located in the Ottawa area, will consist of computers and complex electronic equipment, and will provide a sophisticated facility for conducting research into problems facing air-traffic controllers. It will also be used to train new controllers.

It is designed to provide a realistic environment in which to examine and

test specific traffic-control organizations and situations, produce digital radar output for research and controller training and provide a controlled environment for the evaluation of equipment.

Three similar facilities exist in the United States, Britain and France, and an examination of the possibilities of selling this type of system to other countries is under way.

**Final hockey standings**

**National Hockey League**

East	P	W	L	T	Pts
Montreal	78	52	10	16	120
Boston	78	51	22	5	107
NY Rangers	78	47	23	8	102
Buffalo	78	37	27	14	88
Detroit	78	37	29	12	86
Toronto	78	27	41	10	64
Vancouver	78	22	47	9	53
NY Islanders	78	12	60	6	30

**West**

Chicago	78	42	27	9	93
Philadelphia	78	37	30	11	85
Minnesota	78	37	30	11	85
St. Louis	78	32	34	12	76
Pittsburgh	78	32	37	9	73
Los Angeles	78	31	36	11	73
Atlanta	78	25	38	15	65
California	78	16	46	16	48

**Stanley Cup playoffs, April 4**

Montreal 2, Buffalo 1  
 NY Rangers 6, Boston 2  
 Chicago 7, St. Louis 1  
 Minnesota 3, Philadelphia 0

**World Hockey Association**

**East**

New England	78	46	30	2	94
Cleveland	78	43	32	3	89
Philadelphia	78	38	40	0	76
Ottawa	78	35	39	4	74
Quebec	78	33	40	5	71
New York	78	33	43	2	68

**West**

Winnipeg	78	43	31	4	90
Houston	78	39	35	4	82
Los Angeles	78	37	35	6	80
Minnesota	78	38	37	3	79
Alberta	78	38	37	3	79
Chicago	78	26	50	2	54

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