

The Defence Research Board will contribute the equivalent of one-man year through its Valcartier establishment, where several scientists have already developed expertise, notably in the field of lasers and their applications.

The field of thermonuclear fusion is of high priority and Mrs. Sauvé said that, following intensive research, it may be possible to determine within the next decade whether or not it represents a possible and desirable source of energy.

"It will not only be almost inexhaustible," stated the Minister, "but it will also make it possible to reduce most of the undesirable effects on the environment caused by present sources of energy. Furthermore, it will contribute to the solution of several important future problems of society such as the depletion of primary materials and the accumulation of waste products," she said.

Success in controlling nuclear fusion and building thermonuclear fusion reactors would mean development of new technologies and lead to the creation of new secondary industries.

Development assistance

Canada and Togo recently agreed on a water-supply project for Lomé, the capital, and nine neighbouring villages. An \$800,000 Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) grant will finance a 30-month feasibility study to be carried out by Gendron and Lefebvre of Montreal, including hydrologic research, drilling and pumping tests, and a detailed plan for a system to distribute the water discovered.

Sri Lanka

Two development loans to Sri Lanka were announced in October.

Fourteen locomotives, spare parts and specialized tools will be financed under a \$5,585,000 CIDA loan to improve Sri Lanka's rail capacity. MLW-Worthington of Montreal will supply the diesel units and equipment. Training for railway personnel is also being discussed by CIDA and Sri Lanka. Canada provided three diesel locomotives for the country's railways in 1954.

Canadian industrial commodities and equipment will be made available

through another loan of \$1,615,000 in aid of Sri Lanka industry and tourism. Asbestos for building products and nylon cord for tires are to be provided, as well as a variety of manufactured equipment including airport vehicles and other items for improvements at Bandaranaike International Airport and for a tourism facility in Colombo.

India

To help India speed development of its oil and natural gas resources, Canada will double this year's scheduled \$3 million loan. Through an agreement signed in 1971, Canada undertook to provide a \$3 million line-of-credit annually for five years. The increased allocation will enable India to finance needed equipment, material and services.

Pakistan

Canada and Pakistan recently signed a \$30 million commodity loan agreement that will provide Canadian raw and semi-processed materials for Pakistan's industries over the next three years. Aluminum, copper, newsprint, woodpulp, rubber and zinc are among the commodities to be shipped.

SEAMEO

A \$1 million Canadian grant will finance a five-year training program for citizens of member-countries of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO). This contribution to the Education Development Fund of SEAMEO, administered by its secretariat, will provide scholarships for post-graduate and diploma students at SEAMEO training centres in Southeast Asia. SEAMEO was established in 1965 to promote regional co-operation in educational and technological training. Founding countries include Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, South Vietnam, Laos, the Khmer Republic and the Philippines.

Nigeria

A topographical mapping project, financed by a \$3.5 million CIDA grant and covering 50,000 square miles in northeast Nigeria, will help the country's government plan essential soil, forestry, water and power development projects there. Several Canadian air survey firms will take part in the project, which should be carried out by

1977, virtually completing the mapping of Nigeria. Three previous Canadian projects, costing \$3.7 million, have mapped about one-fifth of the country and have helped in planning the \$80 million Kainji Dam, and highway and communications projects.

Home repair project for Manitoba pensioners almost complete

More than half the homes owned by old age pensioners in Manitoba have been repaired or rehabilitated with the help of winter labour grants under the Provincial Employment Program during the past two years.

Noting that the Pensioner Home Repair Program had been resumed for the third season, Premier Ed Schreyer of Manitoba said that a slower rate of applications being currently received might indicate that the saturation point was being reached in this program. A decision as to whether or not the program, or a variation of it, would be continued next year would depend on an analysis and evaluation to be undertaken next summer.

"The apparent slowdown in response indicates that the vast majority of qualifying pensioners who need or desire home repairs have already come forward," said Mr. Schreyer. "As this may be the last year for the program in its present form and as there are many more who can no doubt benefit from this offer of no-strings-attached assistance, I would urge them — with the encouragement of their families — to make application as soon as possible."

In the first two years of the program some 20,000 of the estimated 40,000 homes owned and lived in by old age pensioners were repaired at an estimated grant cost of \$7 million. Individual grants range from \$150 to a maximum of \$1,000, depending on the size of old age security pension and guaranteed income supplement, with grant eligibility increasing with the size of pension.

"This has been one of our most gratifying programs, attracting national interest and commendation," said Mr. Schreyer. "It has not only served to alleviate winter unemployment but has demonstrated its social usefulness in enhancing the living conditions of an important segment of our population."