
Environment Day marked

Canada's unique environment and the response to it by Canadians is a major factor which sets it apart as a nation from other countries, said Environment Minister John Roberts in a statement commemorating World Environment Day, June 5. The theme for the occasion, sponsored by the United Nations was "Development Without Destruction".

"Canadians today are, and must be, increasingly aware of the role of the environment in the socio-economic development of our country," the Minister said. "We are aware of threats to health and well-being from chemical substances and impairment of our natural resources base through mismanagement of our forests, water and energy."

The challenge for Canadians, in the immediate future, he said, is:

- the effective management of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes;
- the urgent need to control acid rain emissions from Canadian sources and to ensure that the U.S. addresses its share of the problem; and
- the environmentally sound development of healthy renewable resources.

There is a growing awareness that Canada's environment is a force which binds together Canadians, said the Minister. "This awareness comes from the recognition that our Canadian society historically developed during a period when much of our physical and mental energies were used in direct contact with the environment and our natural resources," he said.

Hydro-electric projects proposed

Two major hydro-electric projects valued at \$20 billion will be built by James Bay Energy Corporation (JBEC) beginning next year, according to JBEC spokesman Guy Lefebvre.

The combined output of the two projects will equal that of the four powerhouses under construction on La Grande River, at about 60 billion kilowatt hours a year.

The project ensures that massive construction under way in northern Quebec will continue until the year 2000. Currently, there are 14,000 workers located along the La Grande River, where work will end in 1985.

The first project to begin will consist

of three powerhouses on the Great Whale River, 875 miles (1,400 kilometres) north of Montreal, and 95 miles (150 kilometres) north of La Grande. The second project will be on the Nottaway-Broadback-Rupert river system 500 miles (800 kilometres) north of Montreal and will consist of nine powerhouses. Hundreds of miles of roads, three or four airports, 20 camps, five villages and new transmission lines will be required.

An official announcement and time schedule for construction will be released by Hydro-Quebec before the end of the year, according to Hydro-Quebec spokesman André Saindon.

Mr. Lefebvre says a permit from the Quebec Department of the Environment has not been issued but is expected in the next few months. He noted that recent changes in the administrative structure of Hydro-Quebec and its regulations were designed to give JBEC the power to manage the two new construction projects.

A source for the Grande Council of the Cree says that the Cree and Inuit peoples of the area of Great Whale are negotiating together with the JBEC and have not yet decided whether they will oppose the project. The council is monitoring the environmental effects of the four dams on the La Grande River as they are being built.

International meetings on videotex standards in Montreal

International meetings, which are expected to have a significant impact on world standards for videotex systems, were held in Montreal, June 2-20.

Videotex is a generic term for interactive visual telecommunications. It is sometimes referred to as two-way TV. The Canadian Telidon system, the British Prestel system, the French Antiope system and the Japanese Captains system are examples of videotex technologies.

Two study groups, sub-groups of the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT) of the International Telecommunications Union, met to review recommendations to the seventh Plenary Assembly of the CCITT to be held in Geneva in November. Their recommendations are expected to determine the final standard to be agreed upon by all nations.

The study groups are responsible for making recommendations for interna-

tional standards on telegraph operation and terminal equipment. Canadian organizations also sponsored an associated meeting, called the "Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Teleinformatics", which provided a forum for views by the delegates of various administrations and operating agencies on internationally regulated public services such as teletex, videotex, facsimile and on the future prospects of the teleinformatics services.

The study group meetings were hosted by the federal Department of Communications, Bell-Northern Research, Teleglobe Canada and the Canadian Telecommunications Carriers Association.

About 150 delegates from around the world attended each of the meetings of the study groups and some 400 delegates attended the colloquium. Communications Minister Francis Fox opened the colloquium.

Cousteau to film Seaway



Laurie Storsater

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan (right) meets Jacques Cousteau during a surprise visit to Ottawa by the French undersea explorer. Mr. Cousteau also met with several other Cabinet ministers including Environment Minister John Roberts, who said he had given approval for the 70-year-old explorer to produce a documentary on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway. Mr. Cousteau, noted for his diving escapades with the ship Calypso, said he was interested in the ecological value, geology and environmental archeology of the water system.