

News briefs

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan recently introduced legislation in the House of Commons to establish a Crown corporation to reinforce and expand Canada's food and agricultural exports. The corporation, called CANAGREX, would have the power to act as an international trading entity, providing financial services, including joint ventures, loans, guarantees and contributions.

Canterra Energy Limited of Calgary has presented the British Columbia government with a \$1.6-billion plan that combines petrochemical and fertilizer production. Under the scheme, a plant in the gas fields of northeastern British Columbia would strip liquids, mainly ethane, from natural gas, and modifications would be made to the existing gas pipeline to carry the liquids as far south as Kamloops.

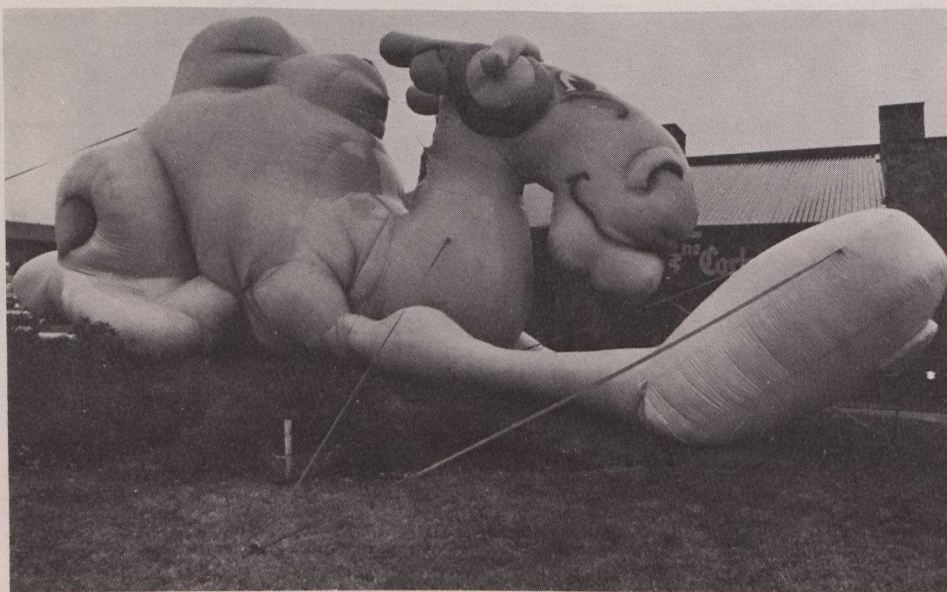
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada has released a booklet expanding on the government's 1973 policy on native claims. The booklet, entitled *In All Fairness — A Native Claims Policy*, reaffirms the government's commitment to negotiate claims based on aboriginal title relating to traditional use and occupancy of land. Settlement of these claims will provide new benefits and rights in exchange for any rights based on traditional interests that may have existed.

The Toronto-Dominion Bank along

with a number of international banking organizations has signed a loan agreement for \$53 million (U.S.), guaranteed by Brazil, with Companhia Hidroelectrica do Sao Francisco of Brazil. The Brazilian company is a subsidiary of Eletrobras, the government holding company for the electrical energy sector, and is responsible for the northeastern region of Brazil. The loan will be used to finance civil works for the Itaparica hydro project.

The federal government has announced one-year extensions to adult occupational training agreements in the Yukon Territory, Ontario and British Columbia. The funds totalling \$237.5 million, will be used to help train adults in community colleges and other training institutions.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has signed financing agreements totalling \$6.2 million (U.S.) to support Canadian export sales to Colombia and Israel. EDC will provide financing to Corporacion Financiera Colombiana, Aerolineas Centrales de Colombia, Israel Aircraft Industries Limited and Mizrahi Bank of Israel. The agreements will assist in the sales of DHC-6 Series 300 *Twin Otter* aircraft by de Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited of Toronto, aircraft engines and accessories by Pratt & Whitney Aircraft of Canada Limited of Longueuil, Quebec, and agricultural equipment by Massey-Ferguson Industries Limited of Toronto.



An Ottawa advertising company is making a stab at a big promotion by unleashing this huge camel balloon in front of a local restaurant. The beastly balloon was brought to Ottawa from its home in southern California by Promospec Specialty Advertising Limited, which produces specialty products such as yo-yos, beer mugs, balloons and T-shirts outfitted with the logo or slogan of the customer's choice.

Corrigendum

In the December 9, 1981 issue of *Canada Weekly*, page 3, the title for Dr. E. Stewart mentioned in line 3 of the photo caption should read "Secretary of the Ontario Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council".

Increases in the old age security pension, guaranteed income supplement and spouse's allowance came into effect at the beginning of January. The basic old age security pension was increased to \$227.73 monthly from the present \$221.74. The maximum guaranteed income supplement for an individual or a married person whose spouse is receiving neither a pension nor a spouse's allowance, will be increased to \$228.63 from its current \$222.62.

The Canadian Wheat Board has announced the sale of 1.5 million metric tons of wheat to China, the last shipment under a three-year pact was signed in 1979. Under the long-term agreement, which expires July 31, 1982, Canada has sold China 7.7 million tons of wheat. Board officials hope to meet their Chinese counterparts next spring to negotiate a new long term agreement.

Canadian skier Steve Podborski recently won his first World Cup downhill race of the season in Crans Montana, Switzerland. Podborski placed first in the 3,663-metre Nationale course finishing in two minutes 9.22 seconds — .15 seconds ahead of Peter Mueller of Switzerland. Team-mate Ken Read of Calgary finished third in the race with a time of 2:09.93. The victory lifted Podborski, who came in fourth in two previous races this season into first place in the downhill standings with 47 points.

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