

Canadian cars for New York subway

The Export Development Corporation has signed a \$917-million (Cdn) agreement providing New York City with money for 825 subway cars and guaranteeing work for employees at Bombardier Inc. of Quebec for five years. It is the largest-ever export order by a single Canadian manufacturer.

The 15-year loan stipulates that Bombardier will build the stainless steel cars at its La Pocatière and Valcourt plants in Quebec with final assembly at the Bombardier plant in Barre, Vermont.

While the largest transit deal in North American history means no new jobs for Canadians, it does ensure job security for the 1 450 employees at the two Quebec plants, Raymond Royer, president of Bombardier's mass transit division, said in an interview at the signing ceremony.

He said that since contracts for mass transit vehicles with New Jersey and Mexico were just ending, there would have been layoffs without the New York City deal.

Terms of agreement

According to Richard Ravitch, chairman of New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the interest rate is 9.7 per cent. He said the authority would draw on the Canadian funds as the cars come on line from mid-1984 to June 1987, with repayment in the following ten years of the 15-year agreement.

New York needs 1 150 new subway cars as part of a mammoth \$8-billion program to rebuild its aged, deteriorating mass transit system. Kawasaki of Japan will build 325 cars identical to the Bombardier cars.

Bombardier will stock up on supplies and fine-tune the design in the next eight to ten months and begin building the cars in November 1983.

Until as recently as the early 1970s, Bombardier was primarily a producer of recreational vehicles. In recent years, the company has diversified into transportation and industrial products. It entered the mass transit field in 1975. The following year, it acquired MLW-Worthington, making Bombardier a major builder and exporter of locomotives through its Rail and Diesel Division. Recent sales in Mexico City, New Jersey and Oregon, together with the MTA order, make Bombardier the leading mass transit vehicle manufacturer in North America.

Last sternwheeler to be restored

Parks Canada has purchased and will restore the *S.S. Moyie*, the last Canadian-made sternwheeler in Canada and a popular British Columbia tourist attraction.

The Kootenay Lake Historical Society of Kaslo has operated the *S.S. Moyie* as a museum since it was beached on waterfront park land owned by the town in 1958. By 1980, however, the historical society found the maintenance of the aging ship was too difficult for the membership. The vessel, built in Nelson, B.C. in 1898, was used for passenger and cargo runs on Kootenay Lake until 1957, when it was repaired and decorated by the historical society.

Current restoration plans for the *Moyie* include installation of a sprinkler system, rebuilding the paddle wheel, reconstructing the skylight system, replacing all deck canvas and painting the boat after all deteriorated wood is replaced.

Assistance to Central America

Canada is contributing \$50 000 for medicines and medical supplies for flood victims in Guatemala and \$30 000 for victims in El Salvador.

The funds, which will be granted to the Pan American Health Organization, will be provided through the International Humanitarian Assistance program of the Canadian International Development Agency.

The extensive flooding in Central America resulted from tropical storm Paul in mid-September. In Guatemala, where some 20 rivers overflowed their banks, damaging bridges and roads, 80 000 persons are estimated to be affected including 20 000 homeless, over 600 dead, 260 injured and more than 700 missing. The flooding in El Salvador came in the wake of an earthquake, destroying some 2 500 homes, damaging 13 000 others and leaving 20 000 persons homeless.

Northern Telecom's high-tech plant opens in Winnipeg



Premier Howard Pawley of Manitoba uses a computer system for the opening last month of Northern Telecom Canada's new \$25-million, 500-employee plant in Winnipeg. As part of the ceremony, federal Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy (centre) activated the computer test facility while the Premier instructed it electronically to test a channel bank of telecommunications transmission equipment. The plant officially opened when it passed the test. NTC vice-president David Vice (right) said two-thirds of the firm's high-technology production was exported — its most recent contract being one for \$20 million from Korea, on top of an earlier \$60-million order from the same country.