

## Venezuela chooses Canada's Telidon System

Venezuela has chosen Telidon, Canada's two-way television technology, for use in a major government project in Caracas, it was announced July 8 by Canada's Communications Minister Francis Fox, by Venezuela's Dr. Hector Martinez, chief of the Presidential Central Office of Statistics and Informatics (OCEI) and by David Carlisle, President of Infomart of Toronto, which is selling the Telidon system to Venezuela.

OCEI has awarded a contract worth a total of \$750,000 to Infomart for the initial system, to be installed in December 1980, which includes 30 user terminals and six information provider terminals. The Telidon terminals will be placed in storefront information centres across Caracas to provide ready access to people seeking government information. Terminals will also be installed in public libraries, phone-in telephone offices and other information centres.

"Telidon was selected as the best videotex system after a thorough review of the world standard systems," said Dr. Martinez.

The Telidon terminals will be used in the System for Orientation and Information (SOI), a major project of the Venezuelan Government, designed to respond to the problem of disseminating government information regarding social services, education, statistics, health and other services to the public. The government-wide project is co-ordinated by the OCEI.

Infomart will provide the complete Telidon system to OCEI and will assist and support a team of Venezuelan technicians in all aspects of the installation and start-up, including training and consulting on data base design and page creation, said Infomart President David Carlisle. Infomart is licensed to market Telidon world-wide by Canada's Department of Communications, which developed Telidon.

Although the Venezuelan order is the first international use of Telidon for videotex, the first international order for Telidon for use in a teletext system was recently announced. In the teletext project, the Alternate Media Center in New York is managing a trial at PBS television station WETA in Washington, D.C., in which Telidon terminals are being used.

## Food aid to Somalia

Canada will contribute \$3 million in food aid to Somalia in 1980-81, President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Marcel Massé has announced. An agreement was signed in Ottawa June 12 by Mr. Massé and the Somali Ambassador to Canada Abdinur Yusuf.

The food aid will take the form of an estimated 6,100 metric tons of wheat flour, which is expected to be delivered to Somalia in late August or early September.

While other donors have already made some deliveries, major supplementary shipments cannot be made until late fall, making the timing of the Canadian wheat flour important in the co-ordination of international relief efforts.

Somalia, designated by the United Nations as a "least developed country", is currently facing one of the most serious refugee problems in the world, as a result of the conflict in the Ogaden Desert. Somalia's refugee population has tripled in the past year, reaching a level of 1.2 million, of which 690,000 are officially registered in camps — more than any other African nation. The Somali Government has requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to co-ordinate all international emergency relief efforts.

Canada provided \$5 million in bilateral food aid to Somalia in 1974-75 and 1976-77.

## Atlantic salmon fishing ban

A ban on commercial fishing of Atlantic salmon, imposed in April 1972 as a conservation measure in certain areas of Atlantic Canada, will continue in 1980, Fisheries and Oceans Minister Roméo LeBlanc announced recently.

"The ban," said Mr. LeBlanc, "was introduced as a conservation measure to allow salmon stocks to increase. However, the advice of our fisheries experts indicates that the recovery of the stocks has not yet reached a level to justify a resumption of commercial fishing".

The Department last year undertook a thorough review of the Atlantic salmon fishery, including biological considerations and the economic and social impact within the Atlantic provinces. A comprehensive

plan is now being developed, covering management and the further enhancement potential for Atlantic salmon stocks.

Mr. LeBlanc said that subject to Federal Treasury Board approval, compensation payments will continue to be paid in 1980 to fishermen prevented from fishing as a result of the commercial salmon ban. This compensation amounts to approximately \$1.5 million annually, and will continue at 1979 payment levels for some 700 commercial fishermen.

In Quebec, management of the salmon fishery is the responsibility of the provincial government, and a decision is expected to be announced soon regarding extension of salmon fishing restrictions in that province. Funds for compensation payments to Quebec fishermen, however, are provided by the Federal Government, and \$235,000 has been paid annually since 1972.

## Companies to increase spending

Major Canadian companies have raised their spending plans for 1980 and now intend outlays of \$27.73 billion, up 25.3 per cent from a revised \$22.13 billion in 1979, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce reports.

The Department's report is based on a regular survey of 300 major Canadian companies. After adjustment for inflation, their real capital spending this year is expected to increase by about 15 per cent the Department said.

It said results of the large company survey cannot be directly related to the economy as a whole. But after adjustments the survey results suggest that for 1980 business spending on new plant and equipment in the Canadian economy, excluding housing, may be up by 5 to 7 per cent in real terms.

Among the major companies, manufacturers are expected to show the largest increase in capital spending this year.

Current dollar capital outlays by the food and beverage industry are expected to be up 17.7 per cent, forest products up 50.2 per cent, primary metals up 62.4 per cent, transportation equipment up 120.4 per cent, mining companies up 63.9 per cent and gas up 21.2 per cent, oil and gas pipelines up 63.1 per cent, transportation and storage up 15.2 per cent, communications up 14.6 per cent, electric utilities up 6.5 per cent and trade, finance and other commercial up 29.5 per cent.