

Canada-US agreement

Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin has announced that the Social Security Agreement between Canada and the United States will come into force on August 1.

Miss Bégin and the United States Ambassador to Canada, Paul H. Robinson, Jr., acting on behalf of their governments, exchanged letters confirming that their countries have completed the procedures required for the implementation of the Agreement. The exchange took place at an official ceremony held recently on Parliament Hill.



Monique Bégin

Miss Bégin pointed out that this Agreement, which will be the sixth such accord to be implemented for Canada, is the most far-reaching in terms of the number of persons affected. As many as 12 000 people may become eligible for Canadian benefits during the first year of its implementation. Similar agreements are already in force with France, Greece, Italy, Jamaica and Portugal.

This latest Agreement will co-ordinate the operation of Canada's Old Age Security program and the Canada Pension Plan with the American program which provides old age, disability and survivor's benefits.

Both Canada and the United States have minimum residence and/or contributory conditions for individuals to qualify for social security benefits. Under the terms of the Agreement, persons who live, or have lived, in Canada and the United States will be able to add together periods of residence or periods of contributions in both countries in order to satisfy minimum eligibility conditions for one or both countries. In this way, persons who might otherwise be ineligible for benefits will now be assured social security protection.

Once eligibility is thus established, the Agreement provides a means of calculating the amount of the benefit to be paid by each country in accordance with its own legislation. The amount of such benefits will be determined according to the periods of residence or contributions credited to the individual in each paying country.

The elimination of dual coverage is an important feature of the Agreement. It ensures, where possible, that individuals will contribute to the program of one country only, rather than to both at the same time.

Donation to aid Pakistan's oil and gas sector

Canada has doubled its involvement in Pakistan's oil and gas sector by providing another \$40 million for Canadian advisers, technical services and equipment to enhance Pakistan's oil and gas production capacity and to offset crippling oil import costs.

Over the next five years, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will supplement Pakistan's own \$90-million contribution to the project to increase self-sufficiency in this sector through expanded training, development and production activities. Pakistan currently imports almost 90 per cent of the crude petroleum consumed annually in that country. Natural gas is also in short supply. Both are critical to Pakistan's industrial and agricultural development.

Some Canadian advisers hired by CIDA will develop specialized curricula and will teach trainers at Pakistan's Oil and Gas Training Institute in Pakistan. Where appropriate to the program, training will also include supplementary placement of Pakistan oil and gas personnel in Canadian institutions and in-

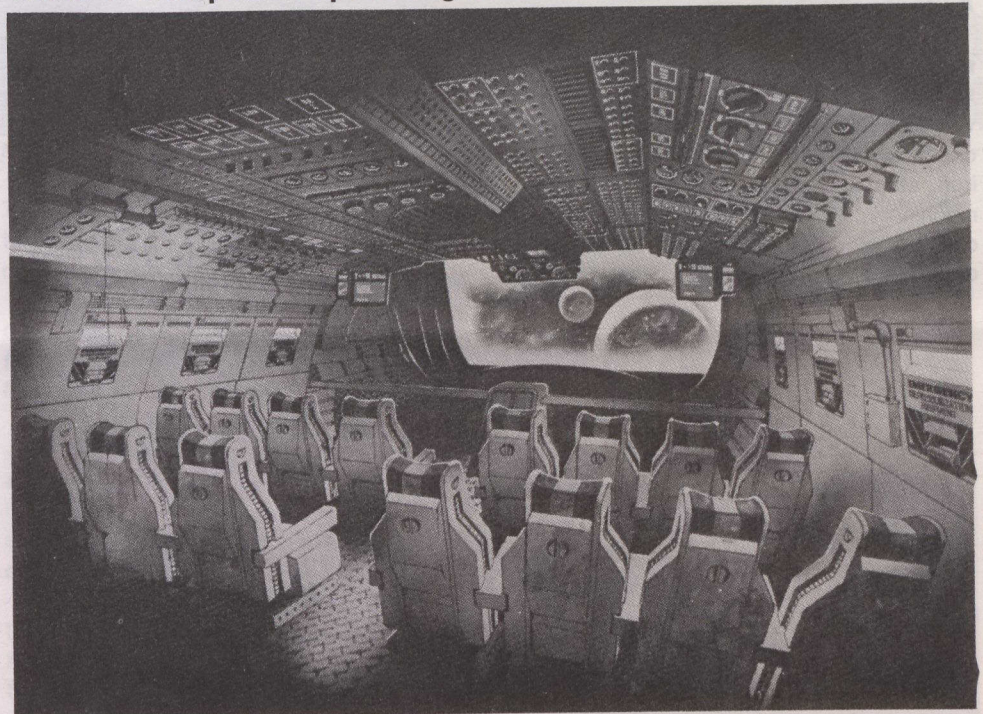
dustries. Other Canadian specialists will focus on the transfer of technology for oil drilling and well completion. As technical problems are resolved, these positions will lapse, leaving Pakistan with the capacity to continue alone.

CIDA will also supply the Oil and Gas Development Corporation of Pakistan with Canadian equipment not otherwise available in that country and considered critical for increased production from existing oil and gas fields, such as well servicing, completion and stimulation.

Given the complexity and scope of the project, CIDA will hire two Canadian executing agencies to help implement the project — one to focus on training, the other on technical support.

Canada's development program in Pakistan dates back to the establishment of the Colombo Plan in 1951, making it one of the longest and most substantial of Canadian aid programs. Over the past 33 years, Canadian aid to Pakistan has exceeded \$952 million.

World's first public space-flight simulator for Toronto



By September, visitors to Toronto's CN Tower will be able to take a 'realistic' flight through space by visiting a 40-seat simulator developed in a special partnership between a British company, Rediffusion Simulation, Crawley, Sussex, and two Toronto firms, Maple Interactive and Helix Investments. The three have formed Interactive Entertainments Inc. The CN Tower simulator is the first of a growing number the company expects to be installed by 1989 at 20 sites in major capital cities throughout the world. (Above), the simulator that helps to produce a realistic feeling of travel in space.