

NEW URANIUM PLANT

The Prime Minister has announced that Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited will construct a plant costing \$10.4 million for the production of natural uranium hexafluoride (UF₆), at Port Hope, Ontario. The new facility, which will be adjacent to Eldorado's existing uranium refinery and the \$8.5-million zirconium plant now under construction, has been under consideration for some time and has now been confirmed by the Cabinet.

Uranium hexafluoride is the gaseous form in which uranium is fed to the enrichment plants. Since many of the world's existing and planned nuclear reactors will use enriched fuel, most of Canada's uranium exports must eventually be enriched. It is, therefore, in the national interest that there be facilities in Canada to process uranium to this further state. Eldorado, with its existing primary refinery, is in an advantageous position to pursue this objective.

Construction will begin later this year, the plant being scheduled for full operation at its initial capacity of 2,500 tons of UF₆ a year by mid-1970. The design of the plant will permit ready expansion as demand grows. Eldorado's total manpower requirements for the existing refinery, the zirconium plant and the new facility will reach about 360 — about 200 more employees than there are at present.

VISIT OF TUNISIAN PRESIDENT

At the invitation of the Canadian Government, President Habib Bourguiba of the Republic of Tunisia, paid a state visit to Canada from May 8 to 12. During his stay, he visited Ottawa, Montreal and Niagara Falls. The President was accompanied by his son Habib Bourguiba Jr., who is the Tunisian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; Mr. Chedly Klibi, Tunisian Secretary of State for Cultural Affairs and Information; Mr. Adberrazak Rassaa, Under-Secretary of State for Finance and Development; and Mr. Lassaad Ben Osman, Under-Secretary of State for Agriculture.

On his arrival in Montreal, Mr. Bourguiba was welcomed by Mr. Maurice Sauvé, Minister of Forestry and Rural Development; Mr. Jean Jacques Bertrand, Minister of Justice of the Province of Quebec; and Mr. Lucien Saulnier, President of the Executive Committee of Montreal. In Ottawa, he was received by Governor-General Roland Michener, Prime Minister Trudeau and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp. During their conversations, the President and the Prime Minister discussed a number of major international questions. They had an exchange of views on the increasingly close relations between the countries which shared a heritage of French culture and language. Mr. Bourguiba explained the Tunisian viewpoint on the question of the Middle East. The two leaders emphasized the importance of finding a solution consistent with justice and a lasting peace in the region, and expressed their support for United Nations efforts to find a solution, particularly with respect to the mission of Ambassador Jarring.

The President and the Prime Minister devoted particular attention to bilateral questions of interest to their two countries. They expressed satisfaction with the rapid progress Tunisia and Canada were making in developing bonds of friendship and co-operation.

MR. BOURGUIBA IN QUEBEC

During his stay in Montreal, the President was received by Quebec Prime Minister Daniel Johnson and Mayor Drapeau of Montreal, who gave a joint luncheon in his honour. Mr. Bourguiba was invested with an honorary degree by the University of Montreal and, on this occasion, gave a speech. The President took advantage of his stay in Montreal to visit Terre des Hommes, where he gave a dinner in honour of Prime Minister Johnson and Mayor Drapeau at the Tunisian pavilion.

The Government of Canada stated that it wished to support the achievement of the next Tunisian plan for economic development. The programme of Canadian assistance to Tunisia has amounted over the past few years to approximately \$2 million annually. The Prime Minister also mentioned that Canada expected to grant substantial food aid to Tunisia.

CANADA-TUNISIA COMMISSION

In the course of the conversations between the representatives of the two countries, both sides agreed to create a mixed Canadian-Tunisian Commission that would meet at regular intervals to discuss questions of common interest such as assistance, trade and cultural exchanges. It was expected that the first meeting of the commission would take place next October in Tunis.

A special Canadian mission under the direction of Mr. Lionel Chevrier recently visited Tunisia with the aim of strengthening the Canadian programme of assistance to Tunisia. The grant by the Canadian Government of increased food aid for 1968-69 marks a first step in the implementation of the commitments made by the Chevrier mission. The Canadian Government has undertaken every effort to carry out rapidly the other commitments made by the Canadian mission in the fields of capital aid projects and technical assistance. These subjects will be reviewed next October at the first meeting of the mixed commission, which will also examine the kinds of support which Canada will give to the achievement of the economic plan and the possibilities of assistance in the development of fisheries and hydraulics.

NEWFOUNDLAND GETS NEW FERRY

A new ferry service between North Sydney, Nova Scotia, and Argentia, Newfoundland, 80 miles from St. John's, the capital of the province, will go into operation on June 14. The *Ambrose Shea*, an ice-breaking motor vessel with accommodation for 310 passengers, 60 automobiles and 20 trucks, will make three round trips a week during the summer between the two ports.