

News Briefs

Quebec Referendum

Quebecers have chosen to refuse the Quebec government a mandate to negotiate sovereignty-association. In the referendum held May 20, 2,171,913 (59.5 per cent) voted in favour of the federalists and 1,478,200 (40.5 per cent) supported the proposal of the Parti Quebecois government of Rene Levesque. Eighty-four per cent of the electorate voted in the referendum. A majority of French-speaking Quebecers voted to keep Quebec in the Canadian Confederation.

Export Development Corporation

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) will provide a \$20-million (U.S.) line of credit to support the sale of Canadian railway equipment to Argentina. The loan, to Banco Nacional de Desarrollo (BND), an Argentine government agency, will finance the purchase by Ferrocarriles Argentinos of Canadian goods and services to re-equip and modernize that country's railway system. Emphasis will be placed on rebuilding the railway's locomotive fleet and repairing railway tracks.

The EDC and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce have announced the signing of a \$3,187,500 (U.S.) financing agreement to support the sale of 20 off-highway trucks to Colombia by WABCO Equipment of Canada (WABCO), Paris, Ontario. The sale, to Industrias e Inversiones Samper S.A. (Samper S.A.), Bogota, is for 11 Haulpak 35-ton and nine Haulpak 50-ton dumptrucks for use in the limestone quarrying operations of Samper S.A.'s new portland cement project near Bogota, Colombia.

The Export Development Corporation and the Bank of Montreal recently announced the conclusion of a \$3.5-million financing agreement to support the \$4.1-million (U.S.) sale of electrical transmission equipment to Brazil by Canadian General Electric Co. Ltd., Toronto, Ontario and Dominion Engineering Co. Ltd., Peterborough, Ontario. The sale, to Furnas Centrais Eletricas S.A. (Furnas) is for the supply and assembly of six shunt reactors at the giant Itaipu power project on the Parana River, on the Brazil-Paraguay border. This is the third EDC-financed sale to Furnas, one of Brazil's major power utilities. The two previous loans totalled \$17 million.

The Federal Cabinet has authorized the EDC to lend Jamaica Railway Corporation up to \$3 million (U.S.) to finance a major portion of the purchase of railway equipment and services from Canron Inc. of Toronto, Sydney Steel Corp. of Sydney, Nova Scotia and other Canadian exporters.

Books Presentation

Canadian High Commissioner to Singapore Mr. L. Michael Berry recently presented a collection of Canadian books to the Singapore National Library. The Minister of State for Communications Mr. Sidek bin Saniff accepted the collection on behalf of the Library. The books covered a wide range of subjects on Canada — history, art, poetry, literature, sports, and children's books including one by Singapore born author John Lim.

Sales to Saudi Arabia

Mitel Corporation of Ottawa has signed a \$2.5 million contract with Telecom SARL, a division of Al Bassam International of Saudi Arabia, to supply superswitch electronic equipment to Saudi Arabia during the next year.

Steel Deal

Steel mill equipment and engineering services to the value of \$11 million are being provided by Ferrco Engineering, Whitby, Ontario, and various Canadian suppliers to Sheerness Steel Company Limited, Sheerness, England. This will cover modernization of the company's bar and rod mill, and on completion increase the mill's annual capacity by 175,000 tons to 600,000 tons. A financing agreement with the Whitby company covering the whole amount has been signed by the Canadian Export Development Corporation (EDC) — the third involving EDC and the Sheerness Steel Company.

CIDA in Peru

The Canadian International Development Agency, has provided \$249,000 towards a project preparation study of a bulk material handling facility at the Pacific port of Matarani, Peru. The government of Peru will invest \$250 million in the project of which a large percentage of the sourcing is expected to be made in Canada.

The study which has been requested by the government of Peru will be undertaken by the firm of H.A. Simons Overseas Ltd. of Vancouver for the Peruvian state mining corporation, Mineroperu. It will be funded from the Industrial Cooperation Division of CIDA which administers the recently announced Canadian Project Preparation Facility (CPPF).

NFB film wins Oscar

For the third consecutive year the National Film Board of Canada has won the coveted Oscar in the best animated short film category from the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Every Child, directed by Eugene Fedorenko and produced by Derek Lamb, is Canada's contribution to an hour-long UNICEF production made in celebration of the International Year of the Child. The film illustrates one of the ten "Principles of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child", namely that every child is entitled to a name and a nationality.

Every Child was one of four National Film Board films nominated for academy awards. The other nominations were *Bravery in the Field* (live-action short), *Going the Distance* (documentary feature) and *Nails* documentary short subject).

This year's recognition from the Academy follows on a series of recent successes: *I'll Find a Way*, won the award in 1978 for best animated short; and *Sand Castle* received an Oscar for best short subject animation. In 1979, *Special Delivery* won the award for best animated short.

