

Training for Chinese physicians

The University of Toronto and Sichuan Medical College in Chengdu, China have signed a co-operation agreement whereby the university will help train physicians in China.

Funds for the \$2.4-million program are being contributed by the University of Toronto (\$1.3 million), the Canadian International Development Agency (\$710 000) and the Sichuan Medical College (\$350 000).

Specific objectives of the five-year program include upgrading in the areas of science teaching, training in basic clinical science, training in pharmacy and dentistry and the development of a medical resource library at the Sichuan Medical College.

The University of Toronto will send professors and associate professors to Sichuan to lecture for periods ranging from six weeks to three months. In addition, teachers of English as a second language will visit China to help improve English teaching for Sichuan medical staff and students. Sichuan Medical College faculty and recent graduates will go to Toronto for advanced training.

Funds for natural gas in Quebec

The federal government is implementing its commitment to provide up to \$500 million to finance the construction of natural gas pipeline laterals in Quebec, announced Energy Minister Jean Chrétien on October 27.

The agreement, signed the same day, by Mr. Chrétien and President of Gaz Inter-Cité Québec Inc. (GICQ) Gilles Barbeau, means that new markets in various regions of Quebec will open up for natural gas produced in western Canada. The program strengthens the government of Canada's efforts to reduce Quebec's reliance on imported oil and thus increases security of energy supply for consumers. Reduced oil imports will lower the compensation paid to oil importers in Quebec.

The two main lateral systems, in the Eastern Townships and in the Lac-Saint-Jean region, will result in the consumption of approximately 500 million cubic metres of natural gas *per* year in the Eastern Townships and more than 1 billion cubic metres of gas *per* year in the area not yet served in the St. Maurice River region and in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region. The first system, in the Eastern Townships, will result in payments of

\$160 million and will serve a population of 235 000. The second system will cost about \$250 million and will serve a population of 220 000.

"This major contribution by the federal government to the Quebec economy will provide a twofold benefit," said Mr. Chrétien. "A large number of Quebec consumers will for the first time have access to natural gas, an abundant Canadian source of energy. Furthermore, this will benefit the distributor and stimulate a wide range of industrial activities.

Firm receives acclaim for new audio equipment

A Canadian company has had the distinction of having its turntable rated "the best in the world" by an international trade magazine.

The "Oracle" designed and manufactured by Trans-Audio, a young Quebec company, received the praise recently from the *International Audio Review* making it the first time the magazine has rated a turntable "the best in the world".

Although it has been on the market for only a little more than two years, the "Oracle" is now sold in about 25 countries, mainly in the United States, but also in more than 14 European countries and across Asia, particularly in Japan. The company exports about 70 per cent of its products.

Trans-Audio's turntable has earned a number of other distinctions, including first prize for design at the Salon International de Milan (1981), "Special Recognition Award" by the American

In the current economic situation, GICQ would not have been able to undertake such a project on its own. Quebec would thus have missed out on the economic spin-offs and jobs that will result from a project of this magnitude. The laterals are estimated to create 7 000 person-years of employment."

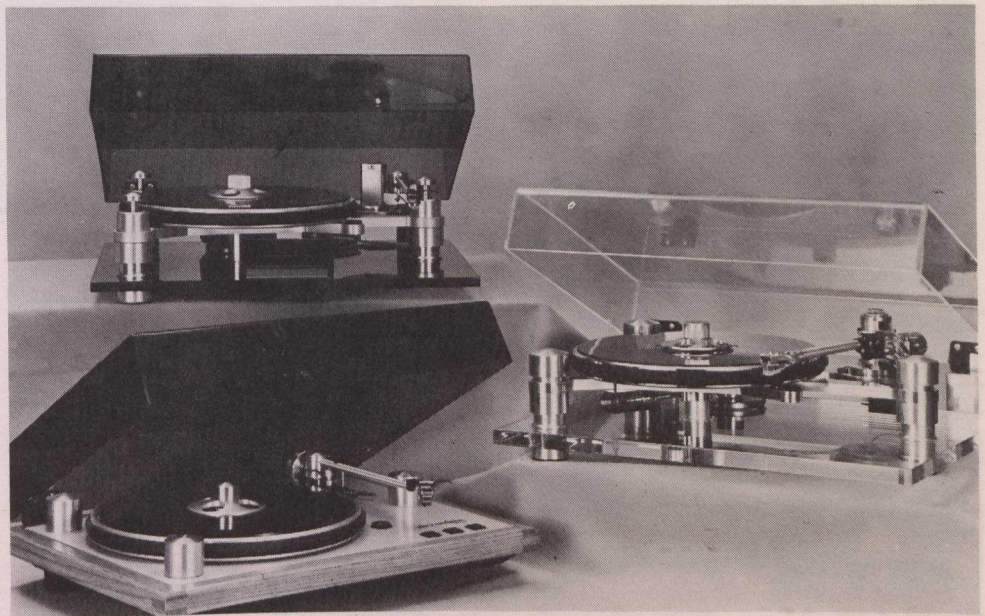
The minister also pointed out that the agreement was intended to be rigorously anti-inflationary. Thus, GICQ will have to pay any costs above those specified in its agreement with the government.

magazine *AudioVideo* (September 1981), honourable mention at the Design and Engineering Exhibition in Chicago. It has also been displayed on the covers of audio magazines in Canada, the United States, Germany and Britain and received the "Design Canada" award of excellence (1982).

The firm, located in Sherbrooke, produces approximately 2 000 "Oracle" turntables a year.

The company is also preparing to launch two new turntable models this fall which will enable them to reach a more diversified clientele.

The "Alexandria", a popular low-cost model, is one of the new models built with moulded parts, thereby reducing its production cost. The "Studio" model is a luxury turntable model, which is completely hand-made, with individually-crafted parts and more advanced electronic controls.



Until now, the turntable market has been generally dominated by "traditional" specialists such as the English and the Germans.