

News briefs

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has invited the provincial premiers to a federal-provincial meeting on the economy in Ottawa on November 13, only eight days after the new Parliament to set to open. The meeting is to be followed by a national economic summit of business, labour and government, which Mr. Mulroney says he hopes will be held by mid-February. The proposed date means that it is likely to be held after Finance Minister Michael Wilson makes a statement to the House of Commons on the government's proposed economic strategy.

Quebec Premier René Lévesque recently toured Japan, South Korea, China and Hong Kong where he met with trade and industry ministers and business leaders. He headed a mission that included Cabinet minister Bernard Landry, several deputy ministers and ten senior Quebec businessmen. It was the first visit by a Quebec premier to Asia.

Mitel Corp. of Kanata, Ontario has signed agreements with seven US distributors worth a minimum of \$100 million (US) over the next 12 months. The agreements represent a 25 per cent increase in sales of Mitel's family of private branch exchanges and related products.



The National Research Council mission insignia is commemorative of the first space flight by a Canadian. The design is based on Leonardo da Vinci's The Proportions of the Human Figure, the drawing of a man whose outstretched arms touch the perimeter of a square and whose feet, the circumference of a circle. In this case, the central figure and two others, free-floating behind it, denote weightlessness in zero-gravity. The three figures represent the different research areas involved in the experiments Marc Garneau conducted during the mission: space technology, space science and life sciences.

Church bells that chirp!



What looks like three large church bells and chirps? The answer, according to Betty Robertson (above) is a SODAR acoustic sounder. Ms. Robertson and Frank Brown were in charge of monitoring the new equipment which belongs to the Atmospheric Environment Service of Environment Canada. It was tested at Perch Lake this summer and the results were compared with the Bendix Frieze Aeronave at Chalk River. Both systems are used to measure wind direction, speed and turbulence.

Samuel Klein, an Ottawa inventor, has been nominated for the prestigious Ernest C. Manning Award for his development of a biological water purifier. His patented KS-22 process uses bacteria to eat microorganisms and chemical pollutants in water. Untreated water passes over a perforated stainless steel cylinder, around which the bacterial "sludge" has been smeared. The water then goes through an activated carbon filter, and then it is chlorinated to destroy any remaining contaminants. Manufacturing and marketing rights have been sold to Hovey and Associates, an Ottawa engineering/manufacturing firm.

Shirley Cull Thomson, director of the McCord Museum in Montreal since 1982, will become secretary-general of the Canadian Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in January. She succeeds Claude Lussier, who is retiring. The commission provides liaison between UNESCO based in Paris, and Canadian groups concerned with international co-operation in the fields of the natural and social sciences, communications, heritage, culture, education and related fields. Ms. Thomson was assistant secretary-general of the commission in the 1960s and a director of the UNESCO pavilion at Man and His World in Montreal for two years.

Media Videotex Corp. of Vancouver, has targeted next spring for the start-up of a

hospitality videotex service for the city that will allow airline travellers to determine room availability on arrival in the city. The system, involves eight terminals, touch screens and a laser-readable video disc with two-channel sound, graphics, still and motion picture capability. A keyboard on the units will access a data base of Vancouver hotels in colour and the menu will provide information on room availability, rates, dining and details of ground transportation. An eight-terminal system will sell for about \$50 000 and advertisers will be able to buy pages for between \$1 000 and \$3 000 a month. The company is targeting other cities including negotiations for a joint venture with an undisclosed US telephone company to place the hybrid system in three US cities next spring.

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