

Canada and world communications

During the fiscal year ending March 1974, Canada prepared proposals on a wide range of telecommunications matters for bilateral discussions with France, Japan, the Federal Republic of Germany and Belgium.

The 1974 annual report of the Department of Communications, just released, states also that Canada was host to officials from a number of states, including Algeria, Australia, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zaïre to discuss matters of specific interest.

The year under review marked the first full year of operation for the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (Intelsat) which operates the global communications satellite system established in February 1973. Canada, holding the sixth largest investment share in Intelsat, is represented on the Board of Governors.

The Canadian Transatlantic Telephone Cable, CANTAT II, linking Nova Scotia with Cornwall, England, entered into service on April 1, 1974. This cable, the first of a new generation of high-capacity submarine cables, is jointly owned by the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation and the British Post Office.

Canada is an active member of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations specialized agency responsible for telecommunications. At the organization's plenipotentiary conference in Torremolinos, Spain, in September-October, Canada was re-elected as one of 36 countries sitting on the Administrative Council, the ITU's governing body.

Canada also played an active role in the World Administrative Telegraph and Telephone Conference which met in Geneva during April 1973 to revise the regulations governing world telephone and telegraph communications.

In addition, Canada participated in the twelfth session of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) Sub-Committee on Radio Communications in December 1973, and in the third and fourth sessions of the IMCO Panel of Experts on Maritime Satellites. The object of the panel is to study the institutional, technical and economic aspects under which an international maritime satellite could operate.



Governor General's first female honorary A.D.C.

Canadian Forces photo

Colonel Mary Vallance, the first woman to be appointed as honorary aide-de-camp to a governor general of Canada, is shown the proper method of wearing an aiguillette by Captain Neil MacNeil, a regular A.D.C.

As one of six honorary appointees,

Colonel Vallance will be called upon to attend Governor-General Jules Léger and Mrs. Léger on such occasions as the opening of Parliament, the levee, the annual garden party and other events that may occur from time to time.

Developments in Cyprus

"The Canadian Government has learned with concern of the announcement last week by the Turkish-Cypriot administration of its intention to establish a separate, secular and federated state on the northern portion of the island," stated the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan J. MacEachen, on February 18. As a major contributor to the UN's peacekeeping activities on Cyprus, he went on, Canada had sought to avoid taking sides on aspects of the dispute between the two communities. "Instead, we have tried to encourage representatives of the communities to engage in meaningful negotiations from which a permanent and generally acceptable solution might emerge." Negotiations were initiated earlier this year, stated Mr. MacEachen, but it was difficult to avoid the conclusion that they had received a serious setback by the recent

unilateral action of the Turkish-Cypriot administration.

The Minister said that since Canada had consistently supported the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cyprus, the Canadian Government had noted with satisfaction the Turkish-Cypriot statement that their action was not intended to constitute partition of the island nor to create a separate independent state.

"It was also noted," he concluded, "that the intercommunal talks have not been formally discontinued. In its Resolution 3212 of November 1, 1974, the UN General Assembly commended these talks and called for their continuation. It is our hope, therefore, that despite this latest complication the leaders of the two communities on the island will pursue their efforts through negotiation to find a solution that will adequately take account of the legitimate interests of all elements of the Cyprus population."