



“... the Government has concluded — as did all parties in the debate last week in Parliament — that under appropriate conditions and safeguards, a Northern Pipeline passing through the Southern Yukon Territory to provide the means to transport Canadian gas from the Mackenzie Delta as and when required to meet domestic Canadian needs as well as to provide immediate transport of American gas from Prudhoe Bay would be in Canada's national interest.

“The Government has been advised by President Carter that his Administration is prepared to join in discussions with Canada in order to explore whether a basis can be established for agreement between the two countries....”

A Dene fishing camp at Willow Lake.

A Summary

The announcement by the Canadian government, quoted above, represents one step in a long decision-making process. The bilateral negotiations will begin as soon as possible. The Canadian government will seek the assurances that it would require concerning the routing of the pipeline through the southern Yukon, the timing of its construction, the financial feasibility of the system and provision for a connecting link that would give access to Canadian gas in the Mackenzie Delta (which might be necessary to meet Canadian domestic needs and to fulfill existing contracts for export of gas to the United States).

Such systematic consideration of international hydrocarbon transportation proposals is a reflection of the world energy crisis and the inter-

dependence of Western industrialized nations. (Both Canada and the US are signatories to the International Energy Program, by which the Western nations, Japan and New Zealand agreed to seek to reduce their dependence on imported oil.) In this instance, as indicated, the consideration process has been concerned with the possibility of building a natural gas pipeline across Alaska and the Canadian northwest.

There already are major international pipelines in existence, and four of them either carry Canadian gas or oil across part of the United States or US gas or oil across Canada, but the pipeline proposals discussed in this issue of CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI are of particular significance. All would be of great length — up to forty-seven hun-