

Olympus Programme. This equipment is incorporated into the specialised business services payload, the direct TV broadcast payload for Italy and the experimental 20/30 GHz payload. Com Dev also has subcontracts on the European earth resources satellite ERS-1 and the Italian national communication spacecraft, Italsat.

Strong links exist between Canada and the UK in communications and space technology, and it is expected that the establishment of Com Dev's European facility will help strengthen those ties.

## Business

### Conrad Black buys stake in Daily Telegraph group

Canadian multi-millionaire Conrad Black has become the largest single shareholder in the company that publishes the Daily Telegraph and the Sunday Telegraph. The Toronto-based Black paid \$17.3 million for a 14% stake in the Telegraph group.

The new capital that was raised through the sale of Telegraph shares will be used to build two new printing plants. The Telegraph group also wants to negotiate with the printing unions that dominate key areas of Fleet Street to introduce new cost-saving technology that would give the papers a new lease on life.

Control of the newspapers will remain in the hands of the Telegraph's Berry family, headed by Lord Hartwell. Black, aged 40, already owns Sterling Newspapers Ltd in British Columbia. However, his main interests are in mining and industry. One of his most successful companies is Toronto-based Norcen Energy Resources Ltd. It had an operating profit of \$82 million last year.

## Government

### Three provincial governments facing major changes

For the first time in more than four decades, Ontario has a different political party in power. Since 1943, the Progressive Conservative party has formed

the government in Ontario, but now the Liberals are in charge.

The change in government came as the result of the provincial election that was held in May of this year. In that election, the Conservatives won four more seats than the Liberals; however, the Liberals won the backing of the third major party, the New Democrats, and were able to defeat the Conservatives in a vote of non-confidence.



Premier David Peterson of Ontario

The Liberals' leader, David Peterson, is the province's 20th premier. He studied law at the University of Toronto and was called to the bar in 1969. However, instead of practicing law, he joined a family-owned business that imports and distributes electronic equipment. He was elected to the provincial legislature in 1975 and became leader of the Liberal party in 1982. Peterson is married, with three children.

Elsewhere in Canada, there are other important changes underway. In Alberta, Premier Peter Lougheed has announced his plans to retire after more than a decade in the job. A successor will be chosen at a Progressive Conservative leadership convention this autumn, and he or she will become premier almost immediately. Lougheed will retain his Calgary West seat in the provincial legislature, but only until the end of this year.

Meanwhile, in Quebec, Premier Rene Levesque has also announced his plans to retire. His party, the Parti Quebecois (PQ), came to power in 1976 and was re-elected in 1981. However, it has lost 26 by-elections in a row, and its majority in the Quebec

legislature has been reduced to a single seat.

Opinion polls put the opposition Liberal Party 20 percentage points ahead of the PQ in terms of popularity among Quebec's six million voters. A provincial election is expected this autumn, and must be called by next spring.

## Environment

### Early warning system detects acid rain

Environment Canada is setting up an early-warning system, claimed to be the first of its kind, which will detect acid rain across Canada.

The Acid Rain National Early Warning (ARNEW) system is a coast-to-coast network of 110 forest plots set up in strategic zones with varying degrees of acid deposits. Each plot contains 75 trees from six species, various soils and drainage, as well as different geography and climate.

The ministry says 25 plots in the Maritimes, 13 in Ontario and three in British Columbia are in operation. The rest will be in place by the end of this year.

Edward Kondo, director of the ministry's forest insect and disease survey says that damage detected by his staff will be published by Environment Canada, and remedial action will be taken after determining its cause and extent.

## Technology

### Canadian technology helps relieve food shortages

Agrodev Canada Inc, a subsidiary of Envirocon Limited of Vancouver, British Columbia, is successfully applying Canadian agricultural technology to developing farms in near-desert conditions, in an effort to provide long-term solutions to the food shortages in Africa.

A 10 000-acre farm created at Sim Sim in Sudan has been in production since 1982 and is the first modern mechanised farm in the region. Using Canadian equipment and techniques, Agrodev seeded 3 700 acres the first year and 9 000 acres the

second, obtaining yields two to three times higher than neighbouring farms that employed other methods.

'Early results suggest that techniques of the Canadian prairies, blended with local experience and conditions, may well lead to significant advances in Sudanese mechanised agriculture,' says Ken Lucas, president of Agrodev Canada. He adds that there are many opportunities for investors to establish permanent farms in the Sudan. 'The area covers 60 million acres and we expect this farm will be the first of several built around a service centre.'

Lucas also says there are good possibilities for Canadian agricultural technology in other Third World countries. Agrodev has exported Canadian agricultural technology to more than 25 countries since it was established in 1976.

The project in Sudan is being carried out for the Canadian International Development Agency. Under its arrangement with commodity broker Gulf International, Agrodev has been able to convert sorghum into cash or trade it for fuel. Agrodev is also developing a farm in Madagascar for Gulf International that will export its entire production.

*Agrodev Canada Inc  
475 West Georgia Street  
Vancouver  
British Columbia*

### Fibre optic fusion for telecommunications

A team of Bell-Northern Research (BNR) researchers has developed a new advanced fibre optic fusion splicing set, which can join two pieces of the hair-thin optical fibres with precision.

The fusion splicing set was designed for use with single mode fibre that can carry more information at greater speed than multimode optical fibre, which has been in use for about ten years.

In the splicing process, a short burst of heat is produced by an electric arc located near the microscope's base, which melts and fuses the optical fibres.

The fusion set folds into a compact, self-contained unit — a