

Canadian plan will guide satellite broadcasting in the Americas

A plan sponsored by Canada for guiding the development of direct broadcasting and other new satellite systems to serve the Americas was agreed to at a recently-concluded world administrative radio conference of the International Telecommunication Union, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Operating on new frequencies in the 12 Gigahertz band, such broadcasting satellites are expected to be ready to begin beaming television and other signals direct to homes equipped with small earth stations about the mid-1980s. In addition, for the Americas, this frequency band will permit the point-to-point communication of data, voice and other communications to very small earth stations, like those used by Canada's experimental HERMES satellite system. HERMES has demonstrated the feasibility of direct broadcasting from satellites.

Countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and the South Pacific – coping with current pressures to use the band for terrestrial microwave services, as well as to provide for potential requirements of the broadcasting satellite service – adopted detailed plans which have allocated specific frequencies and orbital positions to specific countries.

The countries of the Americas, not under the same pressures for terrestrial services, but having to share this band with the fixed satellite service (which involves relaying signals point-to-point between limited and specific ground stations), decided on a different, two-stage plan proposed by Canada.

Its first phase is the setting aside of two segments of the geostationary orbit arc (a circle, 22,300 miles above the equator, at which satellite orbits match the rate of the earth's rotation beneath them) for use by 12 GHz broadcasting satellites. Two other segments will be used by the fixed satellite service.

Broadcasting satellites serving the Americas will be located from 75 to 100 and from 140 to 170 degrees, west longitude. Fixed service satellites are to have positions just east of 75 degrees and between 100 and 140 degrees. For service to Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, the first arc for broadcasting satellites is restricted to 75 to 95 degrees west longitude.

Countries of the Americas will meet at a regional conference, to be held not later than 1982, to develop a detailed frequency and orbital plan of the type worked out by the rest of the world at the Geneva conference.

International development loans

The Canadian International Development Agency has provided Honduras with a \$12-million line of credit to help develop its forest sector, Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson announced in April. Repayable in 50 years with ten years' grace and no interest, it will enable the Government-owned Honduran Forest Development Corporation (COHDEFOR), to purchase Canadian equipment.

COHDEFOR will resell the equipment to small and medium-sized enterprises and co-operatives on credit, interest from which will go into a counterpart fund that will be used to finance reforestation and other rural community services.

The Government of Honduras expects to create 4,000 new jobs in the forestry sector and to develop a number of small rural villages. The Canadian loan will also help ease the country's balance-of-payments problems and diversify its economy.

Water system in El Salvador

Mr. Jamieson also announced that Canada would help El Salvador build a rural aqueduct system to bring clean water to 160 communities by providing the Latin American country with a \$1.2-million line of credit for purchase of equipment and material in Canada and a grant of \$920,000 to develop a potability-control system.

The Inter-American Development Bank is providing \$6 million and El Salvador is contributing \$1.8 million to the undertaking, which is expected to take five years.

The loan, for 50 years, at no interest and ten years' grace, is for the purchase of Canadian equipment and to pay Canadian consultants, who will train Salvadoreans to maintain the system.

A large number of El Salvador's population of four million have no access to quality-controlled water with the result that 18 per cent of deaths are caused by water-borne organisms.

Canada/Mali co-operation

Vice-President of the Military Committee for National Liberation of the Republic of Mali, Lieutenant-Colonel Amadou Baba Diarra, during a visit to Canada, April 20-22, signed with Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson, co-operation agreements for three projects in Mali.

One concerns the integrated rural development of Kaarta – an area including 350,000 people – at a cost of \$25 million over five years. Involved is the improvement of cereal crops, the digging of 50 wells to supply water, the construction or improvement of some 700 kilometres of dirt road, the rationalization of livestock breeding, the protection of forests and the supply of medical equipment, etc.

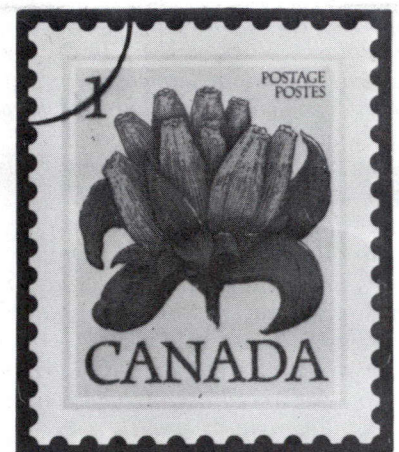
Another project is the construction of a high-tension electrical transmission line between the dam of Sélingué and the city of Bamako at the cost of \$9.2 million.

The third, to cost \$425,000, concerns the protection of crops from exclusive damage by animals and insects by establishing a system of defensive measures.

Canada and Mali agreed to consult annually on the subject of aid.

Stamps feature wildflowers

Six new stamps, depicting Canada's wildflowers, went on sale in denominations of from one to five cents and 10 cents on April 22.



The new issues, designed by Heather Cooper of Toronto, replace another series which depicted former Canadian prime ministers.