

water interface. Ultrasonic vibration was used to disperse the PCBs into very fine particles, and a common pulp-mill effluent was then added to maintain an emulsified suspension.

This technique provided the opportunity to introduce bacteria, obtained from sewage sludge, which might now feed on the dispersed PCBs. Initially, the bacteria suffered an extremely high mortality rate. Eventually, however, the process of adaptation began and a new strain emerged. So effective are they that even the highly chlorinated and until now, most stubborn members of the PCB family – such as Arochlor 1254 – are reduced in one week from concentrations of 300,000 parts *per* billion to 19.

While the new technique appears to have promising possibilities for waste treatment, it still needs to be adapted for practical application. A pilot plant is being planned for this purpose at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters.

Dr. Liu is also beginning experiments with the new bacteria on pesticides such as lindane and chlordane.

Mexican delegation to discuss CANDU

A delegation from Mexico is expected to visit Canada next month to discuss possible purchase of a CANDU nuclear reactor.

Mexico's Ambassador to Canada, Rafael Urdaneta, says that the group will confer with federal Cabinet Ministers and officials of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.

January housing starts

Housing starts during January were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 280,000 for all areas, according to preliminary figures issued by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The final December rate was 329,500.

Actual starts in urban areas in January were 12,521 dwelling units, an increase of 76 per cent from the 7,133 recorded in January last year.

Starts of single detached dwellings during January totalled 4,755, compared to 2,925 in January 1975, an increase of 63 per cent. Starts of multiple dwellings were up 85 per cent to 7,766 from 4,208.

CIDA development loan signed in Indonesia

Canada has agreed to make \$25 million available through a development loan to finance future projects in Indonesia.

The loan agreement, part of a \$200-million financing pact announced last July during President Suharto's visit to Canada, was signed January 28 in Jakarta by Paul Gérin-Lajoie, president of the Canadian International Development Agency, and Ferdy Salim, acting director-general of Foreign Economic Relations of Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H. Adam Malik.

The \$25-million development loan at concessional terms will be provided

from CIDA funds and will be used for projects that will help Indonesia attain its development objectives. The balance of the \$200-million package outlined in last July's memorandum of understanding will come from the Export Development Corporation and commercial banks in Canada.

Mr. Gérin-Lajoie was in Indonesia to discuss development plans and visit projects that have been sponsored by Canada.

After leaving Indonesia, Mr. Gérin-Lajoie visited Canberra on February 2 and 3 to discuss international cooperation with Australian officials and academics. He also met with representatives of voluntary agencies.

Canadian copyright expert receives Egyptian award



Ambassador Ahmed Sabri Kamal of Egypt presents John V. Mills, General Manager, Composers, Authors and Publishers Association of Canada with the Egyptian Science and Arts Award, First Degree, at the Egyptian Embassy in Ottawa last month. The award was for Mills' international contributions in the protection of copyrights, and in particular for the advice he gave Egyptian authorities at a conference of Arab and African nations on the subject held

in Cairo last May. President Anwar Sadat, whose picture is on the wall, signed the proclamation.

John Mills, Q.C., is perhaps Canada's leading authority on international copyright protection. A spokesman at the Egyptian Embassy says this is only the second time his government has made an award to a Canadian (the first was to General E.L.M. Burns) and the first time for this award, which is given for arts and sciences.