

TELECOMMUNICATIONS



Signing ceremony for the BMA Tower Project. From left: Major General Chamlong Srimuang, Mr Lawrence Smith and Mr Paul Brennan, President of Consortrim International Inc.



Photomontage showing the CN Tower and the Toronto SkyDome (now under construction).

MULTI-PURPOSE TOWER FOR BANGKOK?

A group of Canadian companies are hoping to win the construction rights for a multi-purpose communications tower in Bangkok following the signing of an agreement to study the project's feasibility.

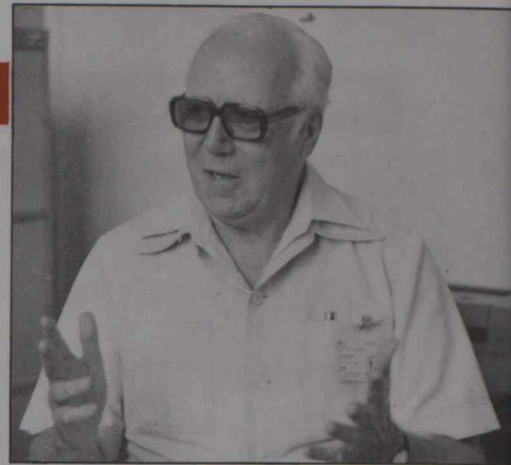
The study agreement was concluded on October 5, 1988. Signing on behalf of the client was Major General Chamlong Srimuang, Governor of the Bang-

kok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), while Canada's Ambassador to Thailand, H.E. Lawrence Smith, signed on behalf of the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC).

The study will be undertaken by Consortrim International Inc. of Kingston, Ontario, which has in turn assembled a group of leading Canadian engineers and contractors to support the effort. Included in the group are Foundation Company of Canada, constructors of Toronto's CN Tower, and Norr Partnership Ltd, engineers/architects for the domed stadium now under construction in Toronto. Bennett & Wright Ltd, who supplied the electrical/mechanical systems for the CN Tower, will also participate.

The study phase, which will be undertaken jointly by the Thai and Canadian experts, will address such issues as site selection, concept alternatives, economic and technical feasibility, conceptual design and cost estimates. The financing of the study will be shared by Consortrim and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) pursuant to a Contribution Agreement to be entered into between Consortrim and CIDA's Industrial Cooperation Division.

Toronto's CN Tower, completed in 1974, is still the world's tallest free-standing structure at 553 metres. It serves a variety of telecommunications purposes and is also an important tourist attraction. Through the efforts of the Canadian team, Bangkok may soon have a similar landmark.



Homeward bound. Mr George Brickenden.

GEORGE BRICKENDEN RETIRES

After more than 25 years' involvement in Malaysian broadcasting, Canadian consultant George Brickenden — known to his friends as Brick — has returned to Canada to retire.

Brick was instrumental in the establishment of Radio Television Malaysia (RTM) — Malaysia's first television channel. Under Colombo Plan assistance, he returned to Malaysia to implement the 1962 report which he and Canadian Broadcasting Corporation engineer George Jones compiled on the establishment of a state broadcasting network. RTM went on the air on December 28, 1965.

Brick maintained the philosophy that foreign consultants and advisers should not hold substantive posts in local operations. He characterized his activity as that of a shadow to local directors, which, he says, "is as it should be."

In 1979, Brick joined the Kuala Lumpur-based Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development as a consultant, and initiated a program called "Broadcasting in Development" in partnership with the Ryerson International Development Centre in Toronto. The aim of this five-year project was to set up broadcasting units in Malaysia, Indonesia, India and Papua New Guinea. These local broadcast outlets would deal with "grassroots" issues identified by the communities themselves.

Brick is retiring to Halifax, Nova Scotia, to "re-acquaint" himself with his children and grandchildren. Local observers, however, point out that this is not the first time that Brick has "retired", and they hope that he will bring his charm and skills to Malaysia once again.