

Canada-Germany air pact

Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany have reached agreement on a revised 1973 bilateral air transport accord.

The new agreement will expand air services between Germany and western Canada by carriers of both countries which until now have been served only by Air Canada on a restricted basis.

For Lufthansa German Airlines the new agreement will allow the introduction of new services to Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver. Services to Vancouver and to one of the two Alberta cities may be introduced as early as January 1983, with services to the third point starting two years later. Under the terms of the accord, the German carrier will be permitted to combine certain of its western Canadian services with its service to the western United States and to carry local traffic between Montreal and designated United States cities. Lufthansa already serves Montreal and Toronto on a regular basis.

Air Canada will be free to expand its services to points in the Federal Republic of Germany from any city in Canada. The Canadian carrier had previously been permitted to operate only a restricted number of frequencies. In addition, Air Canada will be granted flexibility in the carrying of local traffic between Germany and third countries, both en route to Germany and beyond Germany to points in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Pakistan oilseed aid project

Canadian canola varieties are being grown in Pakistan to help that nation meet its domestic oilseed requirements.

Under a one-year international aid project sponsored by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, about five metric tons of Canadian canola seed were planted and harvested during the 1980-81 crop year in Pakistan. Canola is the name used by Canadian growers to designate rapeseed that is very low in erucic acid and glucosinolate content. Because of its chemical make-up, canola is more desirable for human food and livestock feed than other types of rapeseed.

The project is expected to help Pakistan meet its high domestic oilseed needs by putting more acreage under oilseed cultivation and increasing yields.

"Canola has a good future in Pakistan

because of the country's strong agricultural base and great oilseed demand," said Dr. Keith Downey of Agriculture Canada. Recent studies show great potential for improving dryland farming practices, particularly in the northern Punjab and northwest frontier regions, and canola will become a major crop in those areas.

Commercial canola production could also help Pakistan better feed its people, Dr. Downey said. Domestic production of canola, which is more nutritious and more readily used by industry than other types of rapeseed and mustard, could help reduce Pakistan's traditional reliance on vegetable oil imports.

"The winter crop was very good — many farmers despaired when they didn't get the rain they hoped for, but they still got excellent yields," said Dr. Downey.

Seeds from this year's harvest were sown last autumn to produce a commercial canola crop for crushing next spring.

The initial one-year project is being extended three years to improve marketing of the crop.

The Canadian government will send a Canadian canola refining expert to Pakistan this year to ensure proper processing of the 1982 crop.

Skier wins in Switzerland

Canadian skier Gerry Sorensen won two consecutive World Cup downhill races recently on the women's circuit in Grindelwald, Switzerland.

Both victories came on the 3,200-



Gerry Sorensen

metre (199-mile) Tschuggen course. The 23-year-old national ski team member finished the first race in record time of 2 minutes 0.54 seconds, and in another race the following day bettered the record with a time of 2 minutes 0.14 seconds. The Tschuggen course, with a vertical drop of 655 metres, is the longest women's track on the circuit and is considered by some to be the most gruelling.

Sorensen, a native of Kimberley, British Columbia won her first World Cup downhill race over a similar course at Haus, Austria almost a year ago.

Job bank speeds placements

The federal government will be operating a national job bank by the end of 1985, with 3,000 computers distributing information on workers and jobs to all Canada Employment Centres, Employment Minister Lloyd Axworthy has announced.

The Department of Employment and Immigration first started using computers for job placement in Hamilton in 1976 and has since extended the service to Vancouver, Ottawa-Hull, Toronto and Montreal. As the next step, the prairie region will be added to the network by June 1983, with the main computer being installed in Winnipeg and 400 terminals being placed in 47 other centres.

In the final phase, the service will be extended to Quebec City and major cities in the Atlantic provinces by 1985.

"Studies have shown that computerized job placement distributes orders four times faster than the manual method," Mr. Axworthy said. "Applicants and employers can be matched in six hours and 9 per cent more people are hired. The computer also frees our staff for more creative work, like counselling, as well as providing data that will enable us to anticipate worker shortages across the country," he said.

The new national computer system will also be used to process unemployment insurance claims, speeding up the service and providing better control of funds.

In job placement, the department is investigating the possibility of eventually installing terminals in shopping centres and private homes — a step that would further improve the efficiency of the service.

The federal government has allocated \$8.5 million to extend the job placement and unemployment insurance computer systems across Canada.