

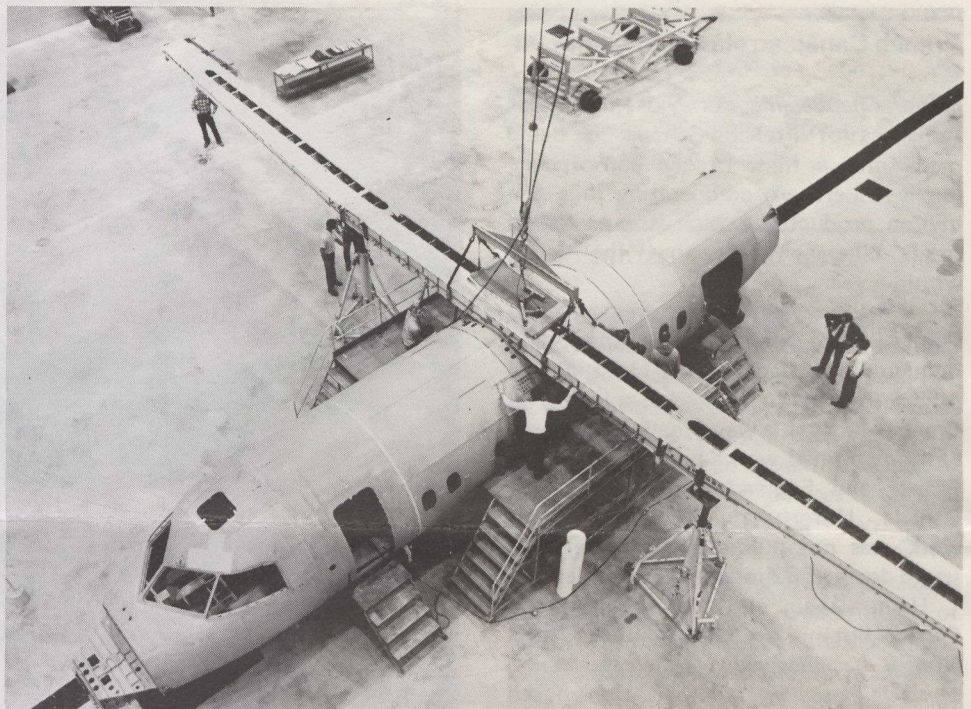
News briefs

Effective February 15, postage for a first-class letter within Canada will increase by 2 cents from the present rate of 30 cents, an increase of 6 per cent. Cabinet approved the increase just before Christmas. All other new rates are effective January 15, including parcels, mail to the United States (37 cents) and to other countries (64 cents).

Air Canada says it has become the first overseas airline to open an "airside" lounge at London's Heathrow Airport. Called the Maple Leaf Lounge, it is situated adjacent to the terminal's three departure gates normally used by the airline. For the businessman, there is teletext and all local telephone calls are on a complimentary basis as are liquor, newspapers and magazines. The lounge is made available for use by Air Canada passengers and those first-class passengers travelling with airlines handled by Air Canada.

Scientists from seven countries — Finland, Greenland, Norway, Sweden, the USSR, Canada and the United States — have agreed to establish a network to facilitate international co-operation, research and training in northern science. The decision was taken at a meeting held in Edmonton, Alberta in October 1982 under the auspices of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program. Three areas, coordinated by different countries, have been identified: problems associated with conflicting land use practices in the North (Sweden); developing the scientific and management-related usefulness of biosphere reserves and other protected areas (Canada); and studies related to the ecology and use of birch forests in the circumpolar sub-arctic region (Finland). The network elected Dr. Milton M.R. Freeman (Canada) as its first chairman, and Dr. Kurt V. Abrahamsson (Sweden), vice-chairman. Its secretariat is to be established in Edmonton, Alberta.

By the year 2000, French-speaking Quebecers will constitute 85 per cent of the province's population, up from the current 81 per cent, while the anglophone population is expected to decline steadily, a government-ordered study predicts. The unreleased study, prepared for the Conseil de la langue française (French-language Council) — an advisory body to Quebec's French-language office — concludes Quebec's francophone majority expanded more rapidly than its English-speaking population and other minority groups between 1971 and 1976.



De Havilland Aircraft of Canada

Mating of the fuselage and wing spans of Canada's first Dash 8 aircraft is done at the Toronto plant of de Havilland Aircraft of Canada. First of four pre-production planes will roll out in April and fly in June. The company already has 40 orders and 79 options for the 36-passenger plane. Delivery will begin in 1984.

A unit of **Northern Telecom Ltd.** of Montreal, Quebec has announced it received a contract worth more than \$100 million to supply fibre optics cable to MCI Communications Corp. of Washington, D.C. The contract could reach \$200 million over four years. It is expected to create 100 jobs in the Saskatoon, Saskatchewan area, the prime fibre optics manufacturing site for Toronto-based Northern Telecom Canada Ltd., a manufacturing arm of Northern Telecom. The MCI will supply fibre for the heavily used 225-mile long-distance telephone network MCI operates between New York and Washington.

More than 100 guests attended a dinner aboard the Brazilian ship, *Henrique Leal*, in the port of Montreal December 6 to mark the ship's maiden voyage. The hosts were the ship's captain Nelson Silva, José Carlos Leal, a director and one of the owners of Companhia de Navegação Marítima Netumar, and Mrs. Leal, and Philip Gainsbury, president of Netumar Navigation Limited, Montreal. The *Henrique Leal*, a cargo vessel capable of handling containers, will be used on Netumar's express run between Brazil and North America. On its maiden voyage it carried coffee, mahogany, aniseed, wool yarn, machinery and cocoa to Canada. On its return trip to Brazil it carried Canadian newsprint.

A mid-December meeting of federal and provincial finance ministers has resulted in an agreement to put money into capital works. Faced with unemployment that they expect will remain high for five or six years, the ministers resolved to assemble a list of specific projects on which more money should be spent.

Spar Aerospace Ltd. of Toronto has been awarded contracts by Hughes Aircraft Co. of El Segundo, California, for the supply of subsystems for the *Intelsat VI* satellites. The projects, which will be carried out at Spar's plants at Ste-Anne-Bellevue, Quebec and Kanata, Ontario are valued at \$33 million.

Canada Weekly is published by the Public Affairs Branch, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to the editor, Joanna Kerr.

Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiero de Canadá.

Alguns artigos desta publicação são também editados em português sob o título Notícias do Canadá.

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