

Government increases investment in arctic oil and gas venture

The discovery of four major gas-fields in the High Arctic and the confirmation of the presence of liquid hydrocarbons have encouraged the Canadian Government to invest a further \$11.25 million in Panarctic Oils Limited for a fourth financial expansion program costing \$25 million.

The cumulative Crown participation to date in Panarctic will thus be \$45 million — of a total partnership financing with industry of \$101 million. By retaining its 45 percent equity participation in this venture, the Government is following its policy of maintaining the Canadian presence in the Arctic and is also assisting in preserving Canadian ownership of fossil-fuel supplies in that frontier region.

Panarctic's four major gas finds in the Arctic islands are at Hecla on Melville Island's Sabine Peninsula, at Drake Point on the same peninsula, at King Christian Island and at Kristoffer Bay on Ellef Ringnes Island. There have also been encouraging oil shows on the Fosheim Peninsula of Ellesmere Island and at Thor Island near Kristoffer Bay.

The Crown first joined the Panarctic venture in late 1967, when it became associated with a group of 19 private companies to explore the potential of some 45 million acres of oil and gas permits in the Arctic islands. These land holdings have now been increased to over 60 million gross acres. Years of experience have made Panarctic a world leader in Arctic logistics and drilling operations; its successes in exploration are outstanding. Northern Development Minister Jean Chrétien said that the program may very well lead to the opening up of the Arctic islands as a major producer of hydrocarbons.

U.S. renews lease at Goose Bay

The Canadian and United States Governments have agreed in principle (subject to the conclusion of mutually-satisfactory arrangements) that the United States Air Force may continue to use the airfield and facilities at Goose Bay, Labrador, until June 30,

1976. Discussions between representatives of the two Governments are under way concerning the proposed arrangement whereby the Canadian Ministry of Transport will acquire the present United States base facilities and operate and manage the airfield for both civil and military purposes. The present United States lease on part of the airfield expires on June 30. Under the proposed new arrangements, effective July 1, the current general level of employment at the base will be maintained.

Visit to Ottawa of Sweden's foreign minister

Foreign Minister Krister Wickman of Sweden will pay an official visit to Ottawa on February 9 and 10 in response to a long-standing invitation issued by External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp when he was in Sweden in 1969.

Mr. Wickman will be accompanied by Baron Carl de Geer, Deputy Secretary-General of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lennart Klacken-berg, head of the Foreign Ministry's aid and development department; Mr. Kaj Sundberg, deputy head of Sweden's Permanent Mission to the United Nations; Mr. Hakan Wilkens, First Secretary of the Foreign Ministry; and Mr. Rolf Ekéus, the Minister's secretary.

Canada's relations with Sweden

Sweden, which established diplomatic relations with Canada in 1943, opened a mission in Ottawa the following year. Canada, for its part, opened a diplomatic mission in Stockholm in 1947 which, since 1956, has had the status of an embassy.

Sweden exports to Canada principally machinery, stainless steel and automobiles, while Canada's exports to Sweden are mainly minerals and food-stuffs. In 1971 Canada's exports to Sweden amounted to some \$112 million, with Sweden sending to Canada goods valued at about \$45 million.

Canada's population of Swedish birth and descent approximates 130,000.

Continuing exchange of views

Mr. Wickman's visit is part of a continuing exchange of visits and views

between Canada and Sweden. In 1969 the Canadian House of Commons' Standing Committee on External Affairs and Defence visited Sweden to study Swedish foreign and defence policies. In the same year a similar committee of the Swedish Riksdag came to Ottawa. Also in 1969, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, paid an official visit to Sweden. Last June Mr. Jack Davis, Minister of the Environment, led the Canadian delegation to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm; and, last year, in September, Team Canada played two games in Stockholm with Sweden's national hockey team.

Fight with bear saves fiancée, wins Royal Society bravery medal

Malcolm Aspeslet, 20, of Edmonton, was recently awarded the British Royal Humane Society's 1972 Stanhope gold medal for defending his fiancée from a grizzly bear. During the encounter he was blinded in one eye and received head injuries.



Vancouver Sun photo

Malcolm Aspeslet, blinded in one eye and badly mauled by a bear that attacked his future wife, is still undergoing corrective surgery.

Aspeslet, who works as a cook, and Barbara Beck, were hiking in British Columbia's Glacier National Park last October when they rounded a bend and surprised a female grizzly