

Defence Minister to visit Cyprus

Defence Minister James Richardson will visit Canadian Forces personnel on United Nations peacekeeping duties in Cyprus and the Middle East. The Canadian contingent in Cyprus has been increased by some 450 personnel since he was in Cyprus a year ago.

Some 950 Canadians, the majority from the Edmonton-based Canadian Airborne Regiment, currently are on assignment with the UN force there.

Mr. Richardson, who will be away from October 31 to November 10, will also visit Canadian peacekeeping troops serving with the UN command in Egypt, Syria and Israel.

Canadian Forces personnel in these countries total approximately 1,120. Of this number 950 are in Egypt, 150 on the Golan Heights, and 20 are with the UN Truce Supervisory Organization, who cover Syria, Israel, Lebanon, and the Gaza Strip in the Sinai Peninsula.

Mr. Richardson will stop *en route* at Lahr, Germany, where more than 5,000 Canadian Forces personnel serve with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.



Canadian Forces photo

Canada's senior officer in Cyprus, newly-promoted Brigadier-General Clay E. Beattie (right) of Ottawa, briefs Defence Minister James Richardson during a visit to National Defence Headquarters, Ottawa. General Beattie has been serving in Cyprus since June 1972, in the rank of colonel as deputy chief of staff of the United Nations Force and commander of the Canadian

contingent. He returned to Cyprus at the end of September where he now becomes chief of staff of the UN Force, as well as Canadian contingent commander.

Future role and make-up of Canada's contingent in Cyprus will depend on the results of a review now being conducted by the UN. The current mandate expires in mid-December.

Pricing of natural gas exports

Acting on a report of the National Energy Board (NEB) on the pricing of natural gas, Canada will establish an export price of \$1 per mcf (thousand cubic feet), effective January 1, 1975 except for British Columbia, where it is to be effective November 1, 1974.

The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Donald Macdonald, who made the announcement, stated that in supporting the NEB recommendation of \$1 per mcf the Government had also endorsed the principle of further escalations in this price though there was no determination at this time of the scale or timing of such increases. "The Government supports, however, the Board's view that Canada's exports should be priced in a competitive relationship to energy alternatives in the United States," he said.

Adjustment period

Mr. Macdonald explained as follows: "The Government's decision to phase prices over time to a target of com-

peting energy alternatives in the United States reflects a concern that importers of Canadian gas be permitted a period of time in which to adjust their supply arrangements. The Government has also accepted a Board recommendation that current importers be given the option of continuing under existing pricing conditions contained in these licences for a period of two years. If this option is taken the export licences would be terminated at the end of two years and the gas would be reallocated to uses within Canada.

"On January 1, 1975, when the new price comes into effect the companies, other than Westcoast Transmission, which transport Canadian gas into the United States will be the immediate beneficiaries. It will be the policy of the Government to assure that these additional revenues should not accrue to the pipeline companies, but should be distributed to the producers of natural gas in Canada with whom these companies hold contracts. The Canadian people will of course share in these revenues through the operation of their taxation systems.

British Columbia

"In the case of British Columbia the additional revenues from export sales will wholly accrue to the British Columbia Petroleum Corporation, an agent of the British Columbia Government. Since early last winter when production difficulties in a major field in British Columbia led to reductions in deliveries of natural gas, supply shortages under existing export contracts have been experienced in the U.S. Pacific Northwest. This is naturally a matter of great regret to us, but it would appear clear that the primary responsibility and jurisdiction as to determining what volumes of gas must be retained within a province for its own use lies with the provincial government. There have been continuous consultations with ministers and officials of the British Columbia government regarding export shortages and I have their assurances that everything that can be done to alleviate these difficulties will be done. I am hopeful that the additional revenues accruing to the British Columbia Petroleum Corporation will materially assist