

"During the course of these discussions, it would be the purpose of Canadian negotiators to seek the assurances that we would require with regard to the routing of a pipeline through the southern Yukon, the timing of its construction, provision for a connecting link that would give access to Canadian gas in the Mackenzie Delta, and the financial feasibility of the system.

Social and economic factors

"The Canadian Government would also be concerned to ensure that construction and operation of any such pipeline would not prejudice the settlement and implementation of native claims, that the adverse social and economic impacts of a pipeline system were restricted to an absolute minimum and adequate compensation provided for those which were unavoidable, that the potential short- and long-term benefits to the people of the North would be realized to the fullest possible extent, and that damage to the environment of the North was also reduced to the lowest possible level.

"The Government also plans to undertake discussions with the member companies of the Foothills Group in order to establish the terms and conditions under which the project might be carried forward.

"Should it prove possible to reach an agreement in principle with the United States on the many factors which must be taken into consideration, it would be the Government's intention to pursue wide-ranging consultations with interested provinces, territorial governments, native organizations, community groups and other concerned interests in order to devise detailed arrangements that would best meet Canadian objectives.

"The President of the Privy Council, the Honourable A.J. MacEachen will direct the negotiations in collaboration with the particular ministers concerned and assisted by the Northern Pipeline Commissioner, H.B. Robinson."

Embassy reopens in Beirut

Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson announced on August 3 the resumption of normal operations by the Canadian Embassy at Beirut, Lebanon.

The Canadian Embassy was temporarily withdrawn from Beirut on March

30, 1976 owing to the serious deterioration of the Lebanese situation which had made it impossible for the embassy to function effectively.

The dramatic improvement of the situation in Lebanon during recent months, however, has encouraged the Canadian Government to take the decision to resume the embassy's normal operations at Beirut. The Chargé d'Affaires and other members of the embassy who have been resident in Amman, Jordan and Limassol, Cyprus since the withdrawal have returned to Beirut and the temporary offices in Amman and Limassol have been closed.

Nahanni — Canada's wildest national park

The Nahanni, a wild and beautiful river in the remote Mackenzie Mountains of Canada's Northwest Territories, flows down a legendary mountain valley, through spectacular canyons and the 1,840 square miles of alpine wilderness that is now designated as Nahanni National Park.

To date, the park has been pretty much the sole preserve of wilderness canoeists and river rafters making the run down from Rabbitkettle Lake to Nahanni Butte. Sightseeing jet-boats go upriver from Fort Simpson to Virginia Falls. Since there are no roads at present, access is restricted to chartered aircraft from Fort Simpson, *via* the Mackenzie Highway, or Watson Lake *via* the Alaska Highway in the Yukon.

Canoeists find few problems in the first 80 miles between Rabbitkettle and the falls. A mile-long portage gets the paddler round the 315-foot drop and down into a steep-walled canyon. At that point the canoe enters really fast water.

The four canyons between Nahanni Butte and Virginia Falls treat river travellers to some of the most majestic alpine scenery in Canada. The sheep-caves in the first canyon involve a climb of 2,000 feet up a scree slope; each cave is protected by a locked gate.

Virginia Falls are not to be bypassed with an admiring glance and a few hasty clicks of a camera. A trail at the upper end of the Albert Faille portage leads to the top of the falls. It follows the canyon-rim to the very brink of the mighty cataract, which is one of the most overpowering sights a white-water canoeist is likely to see in the entire Canadian North.

New fisheries patrol ship

The Louisbourg, second of Canada's aluminium-built fisheries patrol vessels, was christened at Breton Industrial and Marine Shipyard, Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia, on July 17.

Scheduled to go into service this autumn, from its base in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the 120-foot *Louisbourg* will strengthen the capability of the Fisheries and Marine Service to patrol Canada's 200-mile fishing zone off the east coast. The vessel, and its sister ship, the *Cape Harrison*, now patrolling out of St. John's, Newfoundland, are the two fastest vessels in the fisheries protection fleet, capable of speeds over 20 knots.

The Louisbourg, which will cost about \$3 million, will be capable of remaining at sea for up to eight days at a stretch.

Appointment to NATO staff



Major-General Reginald J.G. Weeks of Ottawa has been appointed to the International Military Staff at NATO headquarters in Brussels as Assistant Director, Intelligence, effective September 1. Major-General Weeks, Director General, Intelligence and Security at National Defence headquarters since September 1972, is the first Canadian Forces officer to have been named to this appointment.