

Petro-Canada goes coast-to-coast

Petro-Canada, the federally-owned oil company, has become a coast-to-coast oil retailer with the creation of a new national refining and marketing subsidiary headquartered in Montreal, reports the *Canadian Press*.

The subsidiary, called Petro-Canada Products Limited, was set up following the Crown corporation's \$1.46-billion takeover of the assets of Petrofina Canada Limited, May 12 (see *Canada Weekly*, February 25, 1981).

Municipal leaders visit Europe

A group of 12 municipal leaders from communities in the Yukon and each of the ten provinces, and five labour leaders recently made a seven-day study tour in Europe.

The visit was sponsored by the Department of External Affairs, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Information Service, and the Department of National Defence.

During their tour abroad, the group visited the Organization for Economic

Petro-Canada now has a string of more than 1,400 service stations from British Columbia to the Maritimes, giving it a national market share of about 5 per cent. Canadians will be able to purchase gasoline, related automobile products and heating oil from the new company.

Petrofina's exploration and production facilities, meanwhile, have been integrated into Petro-Canada Exploration Incorporated the existing operating subsidiary of the Crown corporation.

Chairman of the subsidiary will be Wilbert H. Hopper, now chairman of Petro-Canada, while Glenn Sundstrom,

Co-operation and Development and the International Energy Association in Paris, NATO and the Canadian Mission to the European Community in Brussels, and the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE), near Mons.

The visit, which is part of a continuing program, gave the leaders an opportunity to familiarize themselves with some aspects of Canada's foreign policy and international commitments. In previous years, groups of parliamentarians, high school teachers and Canadian journalists have taken part in similar study tours.



The study group pictured in front of Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe comprises: (front row, left to right): C.A. Knight, Fort MacMurray, Alberta; Robert Robichaud, Canadian Conference of Teamsters; Aubrey Smith, Windsor, Ontario; Charles Phillips, International Association of Machinists; Dennis Flynn, Etobicoke, Ontario; Frank McAulay, Parkdale, Prince Edward Island; and an unidentified SHAPE officer. (Second row): Forbes Elliot, Saint John, New Brunswick; J.E. Ogilvie, Kimberley, British Columbia; Jacques O'Bready, Sherbrooke, Quebec; H.C. Taylor, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan; Mary Albery, Department of External Affairs; Robert Munroe, Stellarton, Nova Scotia; and William Brassington, Public Service Alliance of Canada. (Back row): Robert Rutherford, Owen Sound, Ontario; Jon Pierce, Whitehorse, Yukon; Howard Gilmour, Pinawa, Manitoba; Michel Doré, Confédération des Syndicat Nationaux; Gérard Docquier, United Steel Workers of America; and an unidentified SHAPE officer.

also of the Calgary head office, will be president.

With the Petrofina assets, Petro-Canada increases its oil and natural-gas liquids production by 35 per cent to 96,900 barrels, or 15,400 cubic metres, a day. Canada consumes about 1.8 million barrels a day.

Natural gas production is increased 22 per cent to 11.3 million cubic metres a day.

Petro-Canada, which officially came into existence in July 1975, bought Atlantic Richfield Canada Limited in 1976 for about \$350 million. In 1978, it acquired Pacific Petroleum Limited of Calgary for about \$1.5 billion, giving it a network of service stations from British Columbia to Ontario.

It also owns interests in oil and natural gas wells in the West and is involved in the Alberta oil sands development plan.

Group improves babies' chances

The efforts of Alberta doctors have helped make Alberta one of the safest places in North America in which to have a baby.

Dr. Robert Cooper, Alberta Medical Association president, says the association's perinatal committee, a driving force behind the improvement, is a "real success story".

Perinatal means around the birth period — Alberta doctors use it to refer to the period from the twentieth week of pregnancy to the seventh day after birth. Between the committee and similar bodies in large hospitals, every perinatal death in the province is reviewed and recommendations are made to prevent a recurrence.

Faced with 22.6 perinatal deaths for every 1,000 live births among infants weighing more than 1,000 grams in 1955, Alberta doctors set up a committee to review the deaths. Since then, the death rate has declined steadily.

The most dramatic reduction was in the last decade. Association statistics show that, for babies weighing more than 1,000 grams, the death rate in 1970 was 17.1 per 1,000 live births. In 1979, it had dropped to 8.1.

In 1974, the last year for which national figures were available, Alberta had a rate of 14.1, the lowest in Canada. British Columbia had the next-best rate at 16.1.

SHAPE photo by Sgt. A. Heinrich