

Canada and Saudi Arabia sign pact

Dr. A.D. Kayal, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones visited Canada, September 7-11, at the joint invitation of Minister of State for Trade Ed Lumley and Minister of Communications Francis Fox.

The highlight of the visit was the signing of a letter of understanding between the Canadian and Saudi Arabian governments for the establishment of a spectrum management system in Saudi Arabia.

The letter, signed by Mr. Fox and Dr. Kayal, still requires ratification by the two governments and negotiation of a contract.

The two governments have agreed that the Canadian Commercial Corporation, a federal Crown agency, will be the responsible contractor for the establishment of the system.

Technology transfer

The spectrum management system would provide a program identical to that of Canada's for allocating frequencies across the electromagnetic wave spectrum, which includes radio, television, microwave, mobile radio and citizen's band. The system allocates frequencies to broadcasters and telecommunications companies to prevent interference.

In addition to an administration system to establish and regulate radio frequencies, sale of monitoring equipment and physical plant would be likely. The agreement would consist of manpower, technical expertise and hardware.



Communications Minister Francis Fox (left) and Saudi Arabia's Minister of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones Alawi Kayal sign letter of understanding.

The Saudi Arabian minister also met with senior executives from Bell Canada to discuss an extension of a \$1.4-billion contract the company has with Saudi Arabia to provide that country with management and training services. Dr. Kayal said he was "very satisfied" with the work of Bell Canada, which has some 650 managers currently in Saudi Arabia. He also noted that the number of telephones in Saudi Arabia had risen to 750,000 from 130,000 since Bell Canada began its contract almost four years ago. At a dinner in honour of Dr. Kayal, Mr. Lumley, on behalf of the Canadian government, presented a silver commemorative plate to the Saudi Arabian minister

and his ministry congratulating them on the installation of their five-hundred thousandth telephone.

Mr. Lumley, Mr. Fox and Dr. Kayal also met to review Canadian telecommunications expertise and areas of co-operation. Dr. Kayal was given a demonstration of Telidon, Canada's two-way television system, and visited the Department of Communications' research centre to view spectrum management system monitoring equipment, mobile radio systems and a new rural communications system. The Saudi Arabian government is also evaluating the federal office communications program and Canadian word-processing technology.



Dr. Kayal (left) displays silver plate presented to him by Trade Minister Ed Lumley (right), commemorating installation of the five-hundred thousandth telephone.

University group gets funds

Canada will increase by \$100,000 its annual subsidy to the International Fund for University Co-operation (FICU), bringing Canada's contribution for the 1982-83 fiscal year to a total of \$850,000.

FICU is managed by the Association of Partly or Wholly French-speaking Universities (AUPELF). The purpose of this special private fund is to promote activities of co-operation and development among AUPELF member universities.

AUPELF was created in 1961 in Montreal on the initiative of a group of Canadian academics. The organization held its triennial general assembly at Laval University in Quebec City from September 7-11, marking its twentieth anniversary.