

## Business satellite network planned

The TransCanada Telephone System has announced plans to set up a national satellite business network which will combine voice, video and data communications.

The Integrated Satellite Business Network will use a technology called time division multiple access. The technology allows voice, data and video to be transmitted by way of satellite to a network of earth stations. The network, which will be available in 1983, is designed to meet the needs of large- and medium-size companies and organizations.



*The Integrated Satellite Business Network is intended to bring the transmission capabilities of satellites closer to the corporate communications user, even to the extent of earth stations on top of a company's own downtown office buildings.*

The network is expected to be a catalyst for a number of new communications services using satellite transmission. Services such as high-speed document transfer across the country, high-speed data transmission between computers and video conferencing on the user premises are envisioned.

The system will provide communications within Canada, between Canada and the United States as well as overseas via Teleglobe Canada. The major benefits of the satellite network to Canadian organizations include enhanced communications capabilities, increased diversity in available transmission paths and, in some situations, lower communications costs.

For a large user, an earth station may

be located on the customer's premises and dedicated to his use. If the user's traffic does not warrant a dedicated earth station, satellite service will be available by way of a centrally located earth station shared by several users, integrated with terrestrial facilities and operated by the TCTS member telephone company in that city.

A six-month field trial with the Bank of Nova Scotia will begin next year to assess the technology, equipment and potential applications of the system.

The test will evaluate the service for a number of financial applications, including remote data entry, voice telecommunications and on-line banking.

Earth stations in Toronto, Calgary and Halifax will transmit and receive the bank's integrated communications signals through Canada's *Anik* satellite.

## Canada-ASEAN fish project

Canada will provide a \$1.5-million grant to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as part of an agreement reached on a post-harvest technology fisheries project.

The project is aimed at increasing the use of available fish resources, improving the standard of living of local fishermen's communities and increasing the supply of high-protein food in the five ASEAN countries: Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines.

To enable a transfer of fishing technology, Canadian expert services and equipment will be provided along with post-graduate and short-term training awards for citizens of ASEAN countries in Canadian universities and colleges.

Fish and fish products are an important source of dietary protein in ASEAN countries. *Per capita* consumption varies from 40 to 65 per cent of the total animal protein intake; total production is estimated at 5.14 tons (1980). While fresh fish are generally preferred, a significant proportion of fish consumed is in the form of processed products, including traditional products such as salted or dried fish, fish sauce, paste and fermented products.

The project is part of a development co-operation program established by Canada and ASEAN which has expanded in the past 18 months. The Canada-ASEAN program includes other aid projects and also programs to foster industrial co-operation between private enterprises in Canada and in ASEAN countries.

## Aid to Caribbean double

Canada will double its total official development assistance to the Commonwealth Caribbean region during the next five years, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan has announced.

Canada has pledged up to \$43.8 million in planned assistance to the Commonwealth Caribbean in 1981-82, comprising: Barbados, \$2.6 million; Belize, \$1.5 million; Guyana, \$7.5 million; Jamaica, \$10 million; Leeward and Windward Islands, \$11 million; Trinidad, \$1.2 million; other bilateral assistance including regional programs, \$700,000; Caribbean Development Bank, \$4.3 million; industrial co-operation, \$2 million; and non-governmental organizations, \$3 million.

Canadian official development assistance over the period 1982-87 is expected to total \$350 million, reaching an annual level of up to \$90 million by 1986-87. Within this total, provision is made for up to \$30 million for Guyana, up to \$41 million for Jamaica, up to \$44 million for the Leeward and Windward Islands and up to \$25 million for Barbados, Belize, Trinidad and other regional programs over the next three years.

In addition, Canada will continue to contribute to the region through the Caribbean Development Bank, CIDA's non-governmental organizations program and its industrial co-operation program.

## Study looks at settlement of Indo-chinese refugees

The federal government is conducting a three-year study of the 60,000 Indo-Chinese refugees who arrived in Canada in 1979-80.

Questionnaires were sent out at the beginning of this year to 4,000 of the estimated 15,000 refugee households across Canada. The purpose of the study is to determine the economic, social and geographic variables which contribute to successful settlement. The questionnaire, which is printed in five languages, includes questions on the family, employment, services available and living conditions.

The survey is expected to be used to help formulate future refugee policy and to provide improved guidelines for selecting and counselling refugees. The first questionnaire is expected to be followed by two others to be mailed out this fall and late in 1982.