

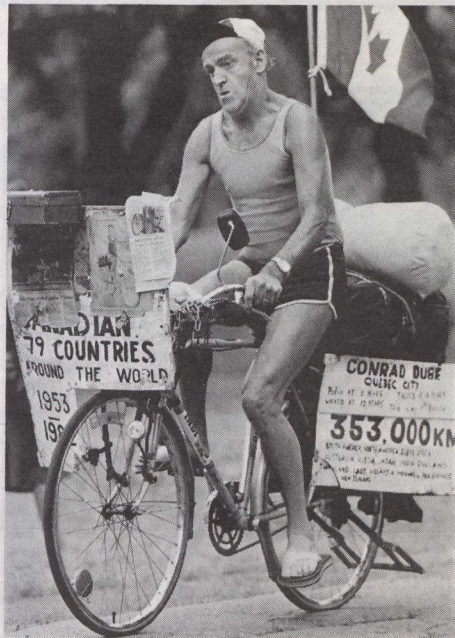
## News briefs

Canada will provide up to \$5 million to assist reconstruction efforts in Lebanon, it was announced recently by the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen. The funds will be directed through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). This \$5 million, earmarked to assist in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of such vital facilities as hospitals, schools, housing, water supply and sanitation installation, power lines, telecommunication and transport systems is in addition to the almost \$4 million CIDA has already provided in the past year to a variety of emergency relief and humanitarian aid organizations.

**Northern Telecom International Ltd.** has announced its first major sale in New Zealand — two SL-1 digital business communications systems to the New Zealand Post Office. The SL-1s will have automatic call distribution and queuing features that permit calls to be automatically distributed and provide recorded announcements to waiting callers. The systems will also provide management with billing information and other details on calls. The first system was installed earlier this year and has been used by New Zealand Post Office for training technicians in SL-1 system installation, maintenance and operations. More than 6 100 SL-1s have been sold to date in more than 40 countries.

With industry figures revealing a growing preference for full-sized cars, the Ford Motor Co. of Canada Ltd., Oakville, Ontario will start building the Crown Victoria, Ford's largest car, six weeks earlier than expected. Large car sales in Canada represented 8.8 per cent of car sales during the first half of 1983, compared with 8.2 per cent last year. The St. Thomas assembly plant, which has been building small cars since its opening in 1967, will be manufacturing 45 Crown Victorias an hour.

The Harbourfront Computer Centre, opening this month in Toronto, will provide "hands-on" computer instruction for the public. About 62 microcomputers will be available, on loan from a variety of manufacturers. Professional development days, seminars and workshops will also be provided as part of an over-all plan to "demystify computers to the general public".



*Quebec City cyclist Conrad Dubé set out recently on his ninth world trip by bicycle. Mr. Dubé, 54, had polio as a child and could not walk until he was 12. But there is no stopping him now; he pedals over 120 kilometres a day.*

The 1982 annual report of the Royal Canadian Mint showed a profit of \$14.9 million on revenues of \$750 million. The highlight of the year and its best hope for future growth is the success of its maple leaf gold coin. Originally seen as a vehicle to stimulate the Canadian mining industry, the maple leaf has become a popular inflation-beater for international investors and now accounts for a quarter of the world sales of gold coins. In the two-and-a-half months since the Ontario government lifted the sales tax on the maple leaf, it has outsold the South African Krugerrand four to one, a complete reversal of market share.

**Spar Aerospace**, the Toronto-based firm responsible for the highly-successful arm of the United States space shuttle, has signed a \$65-million contract with British Aerospace to help build a new European satellite. Spar Aerospace will manufacture solar panels for the L-SAT, a 50-metre-long advanced communications satellite being built by the European Space Agency. The Canadian company will also be responsible for the assembly, integration and testing of the spacecraft according to the recently-signed contract with British Aerospace, the prime contractor. It is estimated the deal will create 1 200 man-years of work at Spar plants in Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa.

The federal and provincial governments and Consumer Co-operative Refinery Ltd. ended years of speculation when they announced recently a heavy-oil upgrading plant capable of producing 50 000 barrels a day will be built in Regina. Cost of the project, which involves financial assistance from the federal and provincial governments, is estimated at \$600 million. The facility is to be operational by mid-1987.

**General Kinetics Engineering Corporation** of Malton, Ontario has won a contract valued at \$1.3 million (US) from Canadian Commercial Corporation for the supply of shock absorbers to the US Army. This is the fourth contract awarded to General Kinetics through the Corporation since January 1983, at a cumulative value of \$4 million (US). Delivery is expected to be completed in December 1983.

**Minister of State** for International Trade Gerald Regan has announced that the Export Development Corporation has renewed a line of credit agreement valued at \$10 million (US) with Magyar Nemzeti Bank of Budapest, Hungary to assist Canadian exporters competing for sales in Hungary by providing their buyers with an easy accessible credit facility through the bank. The original line of credit, signed in 1980, resulted in allocations totalling \$4.4 million (US).

A rare male snow leopard became the first zoo animal in the world to successfully undergo an operation for hip dysplasia, officials at the Calgary Zoo said. Peter Karsten, executive director of the zoo, said the operation by a team of three veterinarians "went extremely well" and Cheyenne the leopard should be back in the running soon. Dysplasia is a condition of abnormal tissue growth.

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