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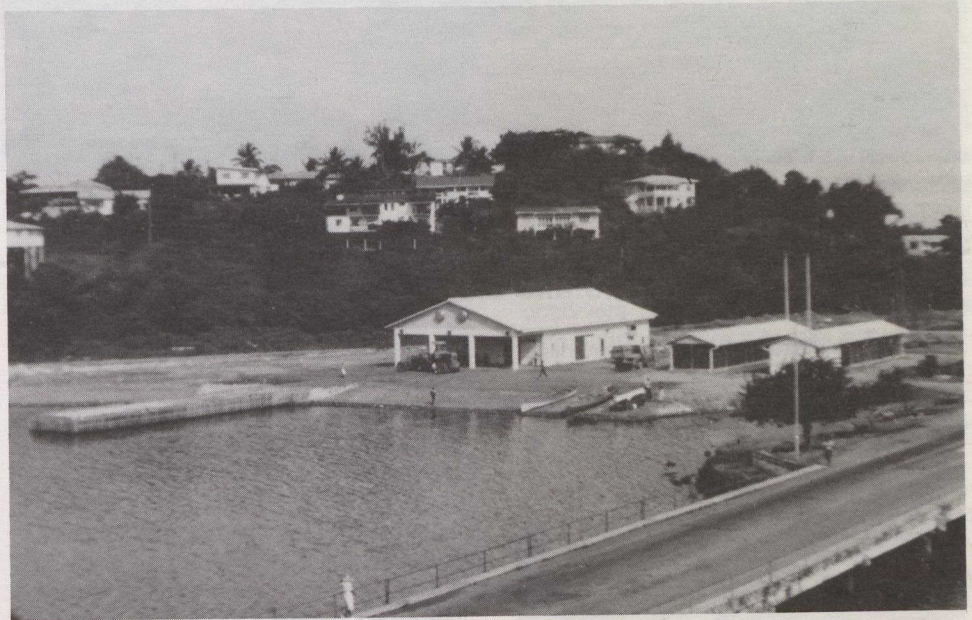
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Canada contributes to Castries fish plant project



CIDA Photos

The new fisheries complex in Castries, St. Lucia, includes a fish plant with cold storage facilities (centre), two buildings for fishermen (right), a landing pier and two canoe ramps.

A new fisheries complex, built by Canada and St. Lucia to help improve the incomes of Caribbean fishermen, was recently opened in St. Lucia's capital, Castries, in the area known as "Sans Souci".

Announcing the opening, Minister for External Relations Monique Vézina said that "the complex, which includes a fish landing terminal and a processing plant, will help to stabilize and improve the income of St. Lucia fishermen by providing an outlet for a larger catch of fish. It will improve the availability and quality of local fish for consumers and will save foreign exchange by reducing the need for fish imports and producing fish for export".

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) provided about \$3.3 million for the project. This includes the cost of supplying insulated trucks that will collect fish from regional landing sites and deliver it to the plant for processing and freezing. The government of St. Lucia contributed \$1.35 million in locally-financed components such as site preparation, installation of services, landscaping and vehicle maintenance. CIDA's share of the project also included

training in Canada for nine St. Lucians in boat building, refrigeration, electrical controls, fish processing, management and marine biology.

Fish provide the major source of protein for St. Lucians, but until now fishermen have had no way to store their catch when it was not all immediately sold. In addition, it was necessary to import fish when the catch was down. Local fish vendors will still be able to buy directly from the fishermen at the landing stations, but they will also be able to buy frozen or chilled fish from the new plant.

Canadian design

Designed by J.D. Koppernaes Engineering Limited of Bedford, Nova Scotia, and built by E.G.M. Cape and Company Limited of Don Mills, Ontario, the terminal includes a 30-metre landing pier, two canoe ramps and two buildings with lockers and washrooms facilities for fishermen. The processing plant has a blast freezer that can freeze up to 2 270 kilograms of fish per day, storage capacity for 49 900 kilograms of frozen fish and another 9 100 kilograms of chilled storage. There is also a standby generator



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