

## News briefs

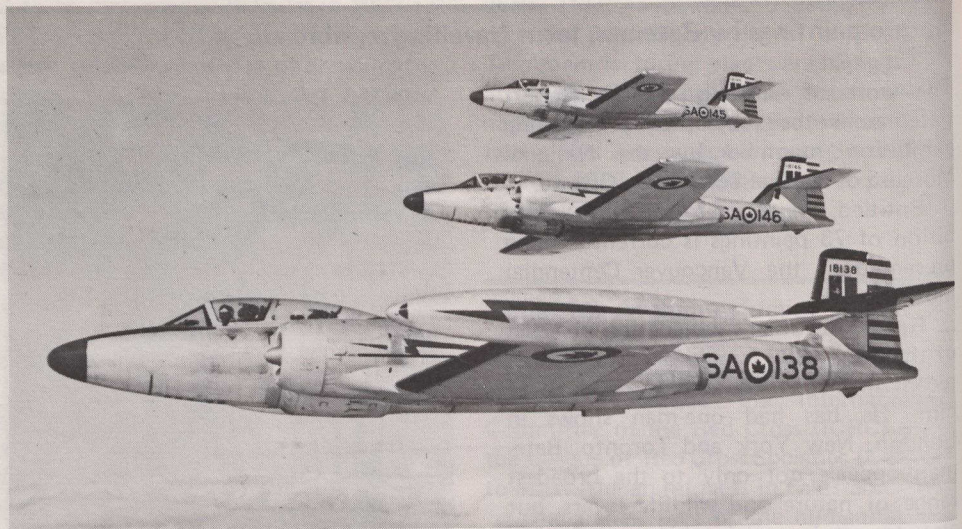
**The Canadian Plasma Exchange Study Group**, a national organization of physicians representing all major medical centres in the country has received \$561,000 from Health and Welfare Canada. These funds will be used to undertake two clinical studies designed to evaluate the effectiveness of plasma exchange as a new treatment for certain diseases.

**Canadian Pacific Consulting Services Limited** has been awarded a \$45-million, five-year contract to assist in the design and supervision of the upgrading of a railway and telecommunications network in South Sumatra, Indonesia. The network will serve as the transportation infrastructure for the giant Bukit Asam coal mining project, scheduled for completion in 1985. A resident team of 25 senior Canadian railway, telecommunications and training specialists will be assigned to Indonesia for periods of one to five years.

**Electronic data processing services** in Canada have passed the \$1-billion mark in annual revenue for the first time to stand at \$1.12 billion in 1980, according to a study released by Evans Research Corporation of Mississauga. The report said that the services sector is growing at a rate of 21 per cent annually, compared with 17 per cent for the hardware sector. It added that the services sector is almost 80 per cent Canadian-owned, compared with 8.6 per cent for the hardware sector.

**The federal government** announced recently that it will provide more than \$2 million in assistance to Canadian industry to develop gallium arsenide microelectronics. In the future, this technology will be applied to advanced radar systems, satellite communications and very high-speed data processing. The project involves the development of miniature electronic circuits ("chips") made from the compound gallium arsenide, which can operate more efficiently at very high frequencies than their silicon chip counterparts.

**Three-hundred delegates** from around the world gathered recently in Thunder Bay, Ontario to discuss the merits of using peat as an alternative energy source. The delegates, attending the three-day symposium, heard speakers from as far away as Ireland and Finland detail the modern applications of peat as a fuel. The International Peat Society co-sponsored the event along with the province of Ontario.



*A reunion marking the retirement of the CF-100 (Canuck) was held recently in North Bay, Ontario drawing guests from around the world. The reunion was attended by both military members and civilians who have been associated with the CF-100 over the past 30 years. The CF-100 was the only Canadian-designed fighter which was mass produced. The prototype CF-100 made its maiden flight in 1950 and in total, 692 Canucks were manufactured. The CF-100, which was retired as a fighter in 1963 was regarded internationally as one of the best fighters of the 1950s. It served in nine squadrons in Canada and in 1956, a CF-100 squadron was assigned to each of the four European wings, providing NATO with its first all-weather fighter.*

**Inco Metals Company**, a unit of Inco Limited of Toronto, said it is proceeding with the \$72-million first phase of a new open-pit nickel mine at its Thompson, Manitoba operations. The new mine is to start producing in 1984 and will replace current open-pit operations, which will be depleted at that time. The company plans a second phase, a \$64-million development of the rest of the orebody, to begin in 1988 with production in 1991.

**Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan** has announced that Agriculture Canada will spend \$2.8 million on contracts for energy research and development in this fiscal year. About \$1.8 million of the funds is Agriculture Canada's share of the recently-announced government wide \$35 million increase in energy research funds being made available under the National Energy Program. The \$1.8 million will be added to existing funds for research contracts in the private sector. These contracts will total \$2.8 million in 1981-82 compared to \$3.3 million spent for such projects over the last seven years.

**The Clarke Institute of Psychiatry** has been given an award by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) for its program for families and friends of schizophrenics. The certificate of significant achievement was given to program organizers Dr. John Thornton and Elizabeth Plummer at a recent APA convention in California.

Canada will contribute \$100,000 in response to an appeal by Gambia for emergency assistance. The grant will be provided through the World Food Program and will permit the United Nations organization to contribute food aid in addition to its pledge of 850 metric tons of rice. The funds, being provided by the Canadian International Development Agency, will purchase approximately 200 metric tons.

**The Export Development Corporation (EDC)** has announced the signing of eight recent financing agreements totalling (Cdn.) \$10,993,733 to support Canadian export sales to Australia, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Israel, Mexico and Switzerland.

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