

reduced by carbon in an electric arc. As a by-product, the process creates particles of vitreous silica 100 times finer than ordinary cement.

The researchers proved that, under certain circumstances, a kilogram of silica dust produces the same resistance to compression as six kilograms of cement. To solve the problem of practical and economic transportation of the dust in bulk for its inclusion in cement, they developed a method of granulation based upon the addition of a small amount of a binding agent, which creates granules that are sufficiently solid to be handled without special precautions.

A new agreement on trade and economic co-operation between the Government of New Zealand and the Government of Canada was signed recently, replacing the 1932 Canada-New Zealand Trade Agreement. The new agreement provides a framework for further strengthening economic co-operation between the two countries. Both countries will maintain preferential tariff treatment for each other's products and have undertaken to provide compensation should one side's benefits under the agreement be impaired by increases in statutory duty rates or by any changes in other import restrictions. The Consultative Committee established under the new agreement will be useful for promoting increased industrial and technological co-operation, including joint ventures between Canadian and New Zealand companies.

Mexico's second-largest city, Monterrey, has chosen Canadian equipment worth close to \$400 million for its proposed subway system.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has signed an agreement with the Urban Transportation Development Corporation of Toronto, to carry out a study on urban transit in Cairo, Egypt. The Urban Transportation Development Corporation will receive a \$250,000 grant to direct a study team composed of the Toronto, Montreal and Calgary transit commissions and two firms — Lavalin International Incorporated and Phaneuf, Gravelle, Blain and Associates.

Saudi Arabia's Minister of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones Alawi Kayal visited Canada recently and signed a letter of understanding between the two governments for the establishment of a spectrum management system in Saudi Arabia by the Canadian Commercial Corporation, a federal Crown agency.

The spectrum management system would provide a program identical to that of Canada's for allocating

frequencies across the electromagnetic wave spectrum to broadcasters and telecommunications companies to prevent interference.

In addition sale of monitoring equipment and physical plant would be likely. The agreement would consist of manpower, technical expertise and hardware.

The Saudi Arabian government is also evaluating Canada's federal office communications program and Canadian word-processing technology.

Senior executives from Bell Canada recently met in Canada with Saudi Arabia's Minister of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones Alawi Kayal to discuss the extension of a \$1.4-billion contract the company has with Saudi Arabia to provide management and training services. Bell Canada currently has 650 managers in Saudi Arabia. The number of telephones in Saudi Arabia has risen to 750,000 from 130,000 since Bell Canada began its contract almost four years ago.

A company in Ottawa, Canada, is producing a computer-controlled thermostat that assists in energy conservation. Valera Electronics Incorporated, developed the thermostat in conjunction with the National Research Council of Canada.

The new device, which is about the size of a pocket calculator, is designed to replace a conventional home thermostat with a "thinking" temperature controller programmed by the homeowner. Once the series of time and temperature settings is registered on its simple eight-button keyboard, the small computer takes command of the furnace or central air conditioner and raises or lowers the home temperature accordingly. As many as four temperature changes a day are possible.

The solid-state device also gives an alternating readout of time and temperature, serving as an accurate thermometer and digital clock. It uses little power and has no moving parts.

Northern Telecom International Ltd., which is a subsidiary of Canada's largest manufacturer of telecommunications equipment, and the Bermuda Telephone Company Ltd. have signed a \$9-million contract to modernize the telecommunications network of the Atlantic resort island. It will be the first national telecommunications network to be changed over from the traditional analog technology to digital.

Hemton Corporation of Ottawa, Ontario, has been awarded a three-year contract by the Graham Poulter Group of Britain for the supply of specialized

Telidon display and image creation terminals. The British company, an advertising and communications agency, will buy at least \$500,000 worth of equipment and services from Hemton in the first year of the contract. The Telidon equipment will be used for internal business information display systems in major corporations, point of purchase displays for retailers and numerous advertising and audio-visual applications.

The University of British Columbia has established a 56-acre research park on its campus. "Discovery Park UBC" will help develop advanced technology related to the expertise of UBC faculty members. The park is expected to enhance educational programs for students, particularly at the graduate level, and foster collaborative research among government, industry and the university. The park was funded through the province's Discovery Foundation, which has three other research parks—at Simon Fraser University, the University of Victoria and the British Columbia Institute of Technology.

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