

Aircraft agreement with U.S.

Defence Minister Gilles Lamontagne and United States Secretary of Defense Harold Brown have agreed on an arrangement which will enable Canada to increase its purchase of *CF-18* fighter aircraft from 129 to a minimum of 137 to improve the air defence capability of its forces.

Under the arrangement the U.S. government will reduce substantially its research and development charges associated with the *F-18 Hornet* program and the Canadian government will match this reduction with an equivalent amount.

Negotiations for the agreement took into account such factors as the complete integration of air defence arrangements for North America with its implications for standardization, the long and close defence relationship existing between Canada and the U.S., and the defence development and production-sharing agreements between the two countries.

The U.S. has undertaken to reduce recoupment of previously incurred research and development costs by up to \$70 million (U.S.), and this will be matched by the commitment of Canada of an equivalent addition to the defence budget for the *CF-18* purchase during the period of the program. The arrangement will also enable Canada, if the Canadian government decides to exercise its option in the contract with McDonnell Douglas, to buy up to 20 attrition aircraft without payment of any related research and development charges, established at \$877,690 (U.S.) an aircraft. Canada will receive its first *Hornet* in 1982.

Wheat to China

The Canadian Wheat Board has announced a sales contract involving the shipment of about 1.4 million metric tons of wheat to China. The sale is worth \$383.6 million.

The Board said deliveries will be made from the West Coast beginning in February, or sooner if possible, and will run to July 1981.

Shipments will consist mainly of No. 3 western red spring wheat with options to provide No. 1 or No. 2 western red spring and No. 1 or No. 2 western red winter wheat.

The Wheat Board said this sale completes the second year of a three-year agreement announced February 26, 1979.

Banking law proclaimed

New banking legislation recently approved by Parliament was proclaimed December 1.

The proclamation brings into effect all but a few sections of the 468-page statute, which are being delayed for technical reasons. The bill was given final approval by the House of Commons on November 19 and received Senate approval and Royal Assent November 26.

The Banks and Banking Law Revision Act, 1980 establishes the legislative framework for Canada's banking system until 1991, when the next decennial revision is due.

Revision of the banking laws was started six years ago when the Minister of Finance requested interested parties to make submissions on the matter. A White Paper was issued two years later. This White Paper and the four subsequent banking bills were the subject of extensive hearings before Senate and House Committees.

Like its predecessors, Bill C-6 was divided into five parts: the revision of the Bank Act, amendments to the Quebec Savings Banks Act, amendments to the Bank of Canada Act, the new Canadian Payments Association Act, and related and consequential amendments to other legislation.

Telidon a world standard

The United Nations agency responsible for setting world-wide telecommunications standards has officially designated Telidon as one of the world standards for videotex, or two-way television.

Telidon is the videotex technology developed at the research laboratories of the Department of Communications. The plenary assembly of the UN International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT) has ratified the Telidon (alpha-geometric) standard on an equal footing with other (alpha-mosaic) standards based on systems developed in Europe.

Telidon is now being used in numerous pilot projects across Canada as well as in the U.S. and Venezuela.

With a modified TV set and a keypad or keyboard, a Telidon user can have information from remote computer data banks displayed on the TV screen. The information can be in textual, graphic or photographic form. The technology has been designed to permit user-to-user communications for homes and offices in applications such as electronic mail, electronic banking and teleconferencing. It has also been designed so as to be immune to obsolescence brought about by improvements in TV receivers, transmission media and data base storage techniques.

British Defence Minister makes Canadian visit



The British Secretary of State for Defence Francis Pym (right) inspects a guard of honour during his recent visit with Defence Minister Gilles Lamontagne (left) at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa. During his visit, Mr. Pym also met with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan.