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New look

This issue is the first in a changed format. The pages are slightly shorter, typography a little clearer, the right-hand margin is "justified" and the pages are assembled magazine style instead of using a corner staple. In addition, eight pages will be published each week instead of six.

I hope you find the new look, which is more economical, easier to read and to handle — these are the main reasons for the change.

Miki Sheldon, Editor.

Construction of northern gas pipeline would be in Canada's interest

After a two-day debate in the House of Commons on August 4 and 5 and Cabinet meetings during the following weekend, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau announced on August 8 that "a northern pipeline passing through the southern Yukon Territory to provide the means to transport Canadian gas from the Mackenzie Delta, as and when required to meet Canadian needs as well as to provide immediate transport of American gas from Prudhoe Bay, would be in Canada's national interest".

Canada and the United States negotiators, said Mr. Trudeau, would meet as soon as possible to seek agreement regarding the routing, timing of construction and provision for a connecting link that would give access to Canadian gas in the Mackenzie Delta and the financial feasibility of the system.

At issue is a petroleum industry request to build the estimated \$10-billion natural gas pipeline across Canada from the North, initially carrying only gas from Alaska to the U.S., with a provision for connecting links to Canadian northern supplies. The Government favours the proposal by Foothills Pipe Lines Ltd. of Calgary and Northwest Pipeline Corp. of Salt Lake City to build the pipeline from Alaska, along the Alaska Highway, through the Yukon, British Columbia and Alberta to the U.S. border. An application from El Paso Pipeline Ltd. for a pipeline across Alaska with tankers to move the fuel along the West Coast to the southern 48 states will also be considered.

Prime Minister's statement

The following is the full text of the Prime Minister's statement:

"The Government has been giving intensive consideration to whether, when and where a pipeline should be built to transport natural gas from the Arctic to help meet the growing needs for new energy supplies Canada and the United States face in the years ahead.

"A comprehensive series of studies has provided the Government, Parliament and the Canadian people with invaluable knowledge and insight into the many complex issues surrounding this question.

"The Government of the United States has been giving similar consideration to the options open to it in order to determine which would best serve its own interests.

"The Canadian Government has been influenced by the conclusion of the National Energy Board that the natural gas reserves of some 5.3 trillion cubic feet that have been found to date in the Mackenzie Delta constitute the cheapest alternative source of new supplies of energy available to Canada. The Board also concluded that, depending on a variety of factors difficult to predict at the present time, Canada could by as early as 1981 and as late as 1985 have a requirement for those reserves to meet its own domestic needs as well as to fulfil outstanding contracts for the export of gas to the United States.

"After carefully weighing all of the many economic, social and environmental factors involved, the Government has concluded — as did all parties in the debate last week in Parliament — that under appropriate conditions and safeguards, a northern pipeline passing through the southern Yukon Territory to provide the means to transport Canadian gas from the Mackenzie Delta, as and when required to meet domestic Canadian needs as well as to provide immediate transport of American gas from Prudhoe Bay would be in Canada's national interest.

"The Government has been advised by President Carter that his Administration is prepared to join in discussions with Canada in order to explore whether a basis can be established for agreement between the two countries. Discussions to that end with United States officials will begin as soon as possible.

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