

## Telidon improves access to government information

The federal government has begun using Telidon as part of a program to improve public access to government information.

The system is currently in use in a federal service bureau opened recently in Edmonton to respond to inquiries by Canadians for government information. The Edmonton bureau is the first of a number that will be opened across Canada.

Telidon is a videotex system, or two-way television technology, developed by the Department of Communications at its research centre, near Ottawa. It allows users, by means of a hand-held key pad and telephone, to retrieve information from computer data banks on demand and have it displayed on a TV screen.

About ten Telidon pilot projects across Canada have already been announced. User groups include broadcasters, cable operators, telephone companies and various information-provider organizations. Sales of Telidon have also been made in the United States and Venezuela.

## Inmate school program expands

The University of Victoria's (UVic) educational program for prisoners, the only one of its kind in Canada which enables a student to obtain a university degree while serving time behind bars, is expanding.

The federal government, which sponsors the program, this summer awarded a new contract to the British Columbia program to begin offering courses at William Head Institution in Metchosin, in addition to its offerings at Kent super-maximum security institution at Agassiz and Matsqui Institution in Abbotsford.

The initial enrolment of 25 students at William Head is unexpectedly high, says Henry Hoekema, program resident coordinator. Enrolment was expected to start at about 10 per cent — or ten to 15 students — of the inmate population.

Enrolment is voluntary. Matsqui has a record enrolment this year of 103 students.

The program, currently called the UVic program at Abbotsford and Agassiz, began in 1972.

The experiment was based on the theory that moral reasoning usually fol-

lows cognitive development. Studying liberal arts courses would encourage inmates lacking in cognitive development, moral reasoning and social skills to think about their perceptions of themselves and the world, and to compare their perceptions with those of others.

According to the theory, the social skills of prisoners would develop through the interaction with the university staff.

Mr. Hoekema points out that the program is unique, and it works. In a study comparing the recidivism rate of two matched groups of prison inmates, inmates participating in a minimum of eight months in the program had a recidivism rate of 14 per cent. The rate was 53 per cent for the matched group.

## Defence Minister in Europe

Defence Minister Gilles Lamontagne recently returned to Ottawa following a tour of Canadian Forces units in the Federal Republic of Germany and Cyprus and a visit to Monte Cassino, Italy.

In Germany, Mr. Lamontagne visited units from 4 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group participating in a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) exercise, "Certain Rampart", in the southwest area of Nürnberg.

While in Nürnberg, he met with General Fredrick Kroesen, commander of Central Army Group headquartered at Seckenheim.



Minister of National Defence Gilles Lamontagne (left) has a coffee break in the field while visiting Canadian troops on NATO exercise in West Germany.

The Minister also visited Canadian Troops on peacekeeping duty in Cyprus and toured their military installations and outposts.

Mr. Lamontagne also travelled to Italy to represent the Canadian government at a memorial service at Monte Cassino in memory of the Canadians who died during the 1944 battles for Monte Cassino.

Mr. Lamontagne also met with Italy's Defence Minister Lelio Lagorio for briefings and discussions on NATO related matters.

## Company leads sales in underwater exploration vehicles

A Canadian company last year accounted for more than half the world sales of submersibles used in underwater exploration.

Since 1975, International Submarine Engineering Limited (ISE) of Port Moody, British Columbia, has sold 37 tethered, remote-controlled underwater vehicles. Sales more than doubled in 1979 reflecting the maturation of a technology that was still in its infancy in 1977. Performance this year is expected to be up again by about 10 per cent, said company president James McFarlane.

Basically the craft, produced at Port Moody, are powered underwater platforms linked to a mother ship by an umbilical cord. The machines are controlled by shipboard operators seated in front of television screens.

The vehicles vary in sophistication from a \$700,000-machine equipped with four manipulator arms and now in service recovering torpedos for the United States Navy, to a \$62,000, lightweight underwater inspection vehicle.

The latest development by ISE engineers is a tactile arm — a manipulator that transmits a sense of touch to an operator at the end of 4,000 feet of cable.

The company recently played a part in the search for the wreck of the British luxury liner *Titanic*, which sank 380 miles southeast of Newfoundland 68 years ago. During the three-week search — called off because of bad weather — the research ship *H.J.W. Fay* towed a sled loaded with sonar equipment at 12,000 feet, an unprecedented depth for this type of operation.

The fender and body of the sled were manufactured by ISE, while a U.S. associate produced the sonar electronic equipment.