SEALING PACT WITH NORWAY

The agreement concluded between Canada and Norway on sealing and the conservation of the seal stocks in the Northwest Atlantic entered into force on December 22, when instruments of ratification were exchanged in Oslo by the Canadian Ambassador to Norway, Mr. G.K. Grande, and the Norwegian Foreign Minister, Mr. A.Z. Cappelen.

The agreement was signed on July 15, 1971, in Ottawa by Mr. Torfinn Oftedal, the Norwegian Ambassador to Canada and Mr. J.A. Beesley, Legal Adviser to the Department of External Affairs. It provides for conservation measures in the Northwest Atlantic to secure the protection of seal stocks as well as to ensure humane methods of catching. Under the agreement a joint commission will be established to make proposals on the conduct of the hunt and on their implementation and enforcement, as well as on scientific research on sealing and conservation.

NEW ARCTIC GAS FIND

The recent announcement of a new natural-gas discovery in the High Arctic by Panarctic Oils Ltd. was welcomed by Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister Jean Chrétien as a significant advance in development of Canada's Far Northern resources.

The Federal Government has a 45 percent equity interest in Panarctic Oils.

The gas discovery, which was made at Kristoffer Bay, Ellef Ringnes Island (about 50 miles north of King Christian Island, site of earlier Panarctic discoveries), is in the first "wildcat" well drilled under a gas-development arrangement with Tenneco Oil and Minerals Ltd., the Columbia Gas System Inc., Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation and Northern Natural Gas Company.

While confirming the discovery, Charles R. Hetherington, Panarctic president, declined to discuss the gas volumes encountered or to speculate on the size of the field.

Mr. Chrétien said that Panarctic had signed a $75-million loan agreement last July for a greatly-expanded program of gas exploration on Panarctic's permit holdings in the Arctic with Tenneco Oil & Minerals, Columbia Gas Systems, Texas Eastern Transmission and Northern National Gas Co. In return, these companies were to receive priority to negotiate purchase of any gas developed by this program and declared surplus to Canadian needs at a price satisfactory to Panarctic.

When production from reserves developed under the arrangement is sold, repayment of the funds expended will begin from a portion of the proceeds. On final payment, the participants will receive from Panarctic a total of 1 percent interest in the developed gas reserves.

Panarctic's history of discovery in Canada's Arctic islands began in July 1969 with the discovery of gas at Drake Point on Melville Island, which resulted in a capped well. Panarctic later discovered gas on King Christian Island in October 1970 and the Panarctic King Christian D-18A well is now also listed as a successfully-completed and capped gas well.

The King Christian discovery was followed by a second successful well, Panarctic, Tenneco et al King Christian N-06, producing at rates up to 188 million cubic feet a day.

The most recent announcement gives the company its fourth well and its third successful wildcat. In addition to the Kristoffer Bay well Panarctic is drilling six other wells.

FEDERAL POLLUTION PROGRAM

Environment Canada will take the lead among federal departments in elimination of pollution by government installations across Canada.

In a house-cleaning program announced recently by Mr. Jack Davis, Minister of the Environment, the Department will spend an estimated $2,208,000 in the next two years to eliminate water and air pollution in 33 of its facilities across Canada.

The scale of the program varies from a $950,000-installation of biofiltration equipment for treating waste-water from the fish hatchery on the Capilano River in British Columbia to an $8,000-incinerator to control air pollution at the Forest Research Station at Candle Lake, Saskatchewan.

Other major projects include a $200,000-system for the treatment of potentially harmful substances in laboratory wastes at the Department's new Freshwater Institute in Winnipeg and a $100,000-secondary-treatment system for waste-water effluents from the Biological Station at St. Andrews, New Brunswick.

Arrangements have been made to install suitable pollution-abatement equipment on two large Department of the Environment vessels – the C.S.S. *Hudson*, based at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, and the C.S.S. *William J. Stewart*, stationed at Victoria, B.C. The equipment to be installed will control and treat sanitary wastes, prevent discharge of oily wastes, and compaction of solid wastes which have to be brought back to shore for disposal.

"This is stage one of a general de-pollution of departmental facilities," explained the Minister. "We intend to bring all our existing facilities up to a high standard. Any new installations will have these environmental-protection measures built into them from the start. As the Department entrusted with protection of the Canadian environment, we should set a shining example for other organizations."