

Future embassy of granite

Canada's new embassy in Saudi Arabia will be built out of granite to help shield its occupants from the oppressive desert heat.

The granite stone with its almost impenetrable qualities was chosen to help keep the new embassy cool through summertime temperatures in excess of 49 degrees Celsius.

The embassy, which will be located on the outskirts of Riyadh, is being designed through a joint-venture Canadian firm, Sankey Consultants Limited/Project Planning Associates.

The embassy will contain diplomatic offices, an ambassador's residence, service wing for electrical and mechanical equipment, and recreational facilities, including a swimming pool and tennis courts.

News briefs

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan has announced that this year's Agricultural Outlook Conference will be held in Ottawa, December 7-8. The conference brings together heads of the federal and provincial departments of agriculture, and representatives from farm organizations, universities, consumer groups, agribusiness and other government departments to discuss agricultural prospects for the coming year. Speakers will discuss general economic trends, the world agricultural and food outlook and Canadian agricultural and food market prospects in 1982.

The Alberta government is putting a further \$200 million of its Heritage Savings Trust Fund towards subsidizing the cost of housing. The money will increase the Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation budget this year to \$1.186 billion and make the government responsible for two-thirds of Alberta housing starts. The corporation's purchase program provides monthly payment subsidies, based on income for a limited time after purchase of a home.

The Royal Bank has reported the formation of a new subsidiary called Royal Bank Export Finance Company Limited. The company will provide small- and medium-sized exporters with another financial option to help improve cash flow and attract foreign buyers.

A recent symposium on coastal environments, held at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia attracted more than 150 marine

Lloyd Sankey, partner in charge of the project, said the new embassy represents "contemporary Canadian architecture designed with Islamic traditions in mind".

The two-storey structure will feature strong, clean horizontal lines and planes in reinforced concrete. The embassy's offices surround an open inner court which Sankey said not only provides for better security but also doubles as a sun screen "and creates an architectural link with Islamic culture".

One of the major engineering problems confronted by the architects designing the complex is dealing with the extreme day-night temperature changes.

Sankey said the temperature can vary by as much as 20 degrees Celsius over a 24-hour period, creating extreme expansion and contraction stresses on buildings.

specialists from around the world to discuss the importance and effect of "muddy" coastal waters. Canada's Bay of Fundy, the Wadden Sea region of northern Europe and the Severn Estuary on Britain's west coast are examples of water environments where suspended sediment plays a role. Other highly turbid water areas of Asia, South America, the United States and continental Europe were also discussed in the more than 30 talks and 50 papers presented during the three-day meeting.

Dome Petroleum Limited of Calgary has signed a 20-year agreement to sell 2.6-million metric tons a year of liquefied natural gas to four Japanese utility companies for an undisclosed price. The agreement with NIC Resources Incorporated, a subsidiary of Nissho-Iwai Corporation of Japan, is subject to regulatory approvals. The agreement will require the construction of a plant on the West Coast to liquefy the natural gas, as well as four tankers and other installations.

The British Columbia government has signed an agreement with the federal government regarding oil and gas pricing and related fiscal matters. "Several energy projects are in nascent stages. These will make an important contribution to Canada's goal of energy security. In order to assure this goal is reached, close inter-governmental co-operation will be required. This agreement forms a solid base for this co-operation," said federal Energy Minister Marc Lalonde in announcing the agreement.

The federal government has renewed

programs aimed at improving the skills of workers in two provinces. The adult occupational training programs in the Northwest Territories and Quebec have been extended for one year. Under the extensions, the federal government will contribute about \$2 million towards institutional training courses in the Northwest Territories and \$133 million to Quebec for similar courses.

Bombardier Incorporated of Montreal will supply 26 articulated light rail vehicles (trams) to the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Portland, Oregon. The order is worth about \$25 million. It is the first competitive award won by Bombardier for such vehicles in the United States.

Agriculture Canada will provide up to \$599,850 for a three-year, \$1.27-million project to develop canola. The project will focus on developmental research to increase canola production and improve the quality of the crop to meet the requirements of both export and domestic markets. Research will be carried out under the direction of oilseed plant breeders at the universities of Alberta and Manitoba and at Agriculture Canada's Saskatoon Research Station.

The Graham Poulter Group of Britain has awarded a three-year contract to Hemton Corporation of Ottawa 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.

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