

News Briefs

Canada will contribute a further \$2.25 million over the next three years to the Asian Development Bank's technical assistance special fund, Finance Minister Allan MacEachen announced at the bank's annual meeting held in Honolulu, May 1.

Mobil Oil has signed a contract for the purchase of one de Havilland Canada DASH-7 and has optioned a second. The DASH-7 will be used to support exploration, development and production activities in Southeast Asian oil fields. Mobil has operated Twin Otters in Southeast Asia and throughout the world for the past 12 years.

Seven major Japanese companies have signed contracts clearing the way for the first joint Canadian-Japanese development of Canadian coal resources. Japan's big six steel-makers and Mitsui and Company, a trading company, agreed to acquire a 40 per cent equity in a \$180-million project to recover coking coal from Alberta's Gregg River district. The Japanese companies, which signed with Alberta's Gregg River Resources Limited, agreed to bear 40 per cent of the cost of the project. Industrial sources said the Japanese companies have agreed to buy 2.13 million tonnes of coking coal.

The Hydro and Power Authority of British Columbia, Canada, will develop a \$5-billion coal-fired power generating plant at Hat Creek. A \$600-million scrubbing process will be incorporated into the plant to protect air quality and all but eliminate potential acid rain. Construction could begin in early 1983 and the first electric power produced from it by August, 1988.

The design of a new type of dynamically positioned semi-submersible drilling rig intended for operations in environmentally hostile areas has been commissioned by Federal Commerce and Navigation Ltd. of Montreal, Canada. The vessel, estimated to cost \$200 million in 1985 dollars, is to be an eight-column design, with 10 thrusters, total diesel-electric power of about 42,000 horsepower, enlarged stacking capacity, and be able to drill in more than 2,134 metres of water — considerably deeper than most existing semi-submersible rigs can handle. Complement is to be 120. Its performance and capacity to remain on location in hostile environments would be superior to the Sedco 709, the only dynamically positioned semi-submersible now in operation, and the Sedco 710 now under construction.

The first allocation under a \$2-billion line of credit signed in August 1979 between the Bank of China and Canada's Export Development Corporation (EDC) to the Bank of China was recently concluded. EDC announced a \$6.8 million financing agreement to support an \$8-million sale of Canadian equipment and related services for a copper ore grinding facility in the People's Republic of China. Allis-Chalmers Canada Inc. of Lachine, Quebec, has received the order for two grinding mill circuits and components for a third circuit.

The Export Development Corporation of Canada has concluded a US \$6.82-million financing agreement to support an \$8.05-million purchase by Korean Airlines of South Korea of a Boeing 747 flight simulator from CAE Electronics Ltd. of Montreal.

The Canadian Commercial Corporation, a federal Crown agency, has awarded a production contract to DAF Indal Limited, Mississauga near Toronto, Ontario. The \$5-million contract, on behalf of the United States Navy, Naval Air Systems Command, is for Recovery Assist Secure and Traverse (RAST) systems and support for the U.S. Navy Light Air Borne Multi-Purpose Program. The RAST equipment provides for the safe operation of helicopters from the decks of cruiser-, destroyer-, and frigate-type vessels in weather conditions that would otherwise prevent helicopters from taking off or landing. It is the result of four years of development to modify equipment originally developed by the Canadian Forces.

There has been an increase in the number of Southeast Asian tourists travelling to Canada. According to comparative figures from Statistics Canada, 52.4 per cent more Singaporeans, 54.1 per cent more Malaysians, and 30.5 per cent more Filipinos visited Canada in 1980 than did in 1979.

Northern Telecom Limited — the largest manufacturer of telecommunications equipment in Canada and second largest in North America — which has its headquarters near Toronto, has already sold or received orders for its DMS digital switching and transmission systems to serve more than four million equivalent telephone lines (including long-distance trunks). If the SL-1 digital business communications system is included, Northern Telecom's Digital World products have been ordered to serve over five million equivalent lines, which the company claims is a sales record that no

other company in North America can even approach.

Goodwood Data Systems Ltd. of Carleton Place, Ontario, Canada, has received a \$1-million contract from the Hong Kong government to design and manufacture an electronic typhoon warning system.

Officials of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) have held talks with Chinese officials about setting up a representative office in Peking. The proposed office would promote trade between China and Canada and arrange joint ventures between Chinese and foreign investors. If approved, the bank would be the fifth foreign bank so far this year to establish an office in the Chinese capital. CIBC also plans to establish an office in Shenzhen, a special economic zone bordering Hong Kong, and will establish its regional headquarters in Hong Kong. That office will be responsible for the bank's operations in Asia and Australia, including planned expansion in Southeast Asia.

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