

government and has applied for provincial status. The territory covers 532,000 square kms and in 1977 had a population of 21,000.

Gold is once again important as a result of high world prices, and millions of dollars worth of heavy equipment and hundreds of men are working in the Dawson area, some scouring old workings, others trying new locations. Mining employment rose by 14% over the last year, and it is estimated that exploration spending will reach a new record of more than \$ 20 million (Canadian) in 1980, largely because of high gold and silver prices. However, the mining regulations have not changed since Klondike days and the Yukon and federal governments are increasingly concerned at the damage which may be done to the environment by these large-scale operations.

According to the Yukon Government business activity has been expanding at a slow but steady pace. By June 1980 there were 1,110 companies registered in the territory, an increase of 8.5% over 1979. Unemployment is still high, at 8.8% in June which is the peak employment season, but the gradual recovery of the construction industry from the recent gas pipeline "boom/bust" promises better times for the labour force.

A committee of citizens, business representatives and federal and territorial officials is currently working on several development projects with a view to making Whitehorse a major tourist attraction. Of the 300,000 visitors to the Yukon in 1978 about 80% were Americans who were merely travelling through to Alaska. The committee hopes to turn Whitehorse into a destination for tourists who would stay longer and spend more.

#### EN BREF

##### AN AGREEMENT ON RADIO-ACTIVE WASTE

On November 3, 1980 the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) signed a cooperative agreement in the field of radio-active waste management. Envisaged are exchanges of technical information, the organization of joint scientific meetings and exchanges of scientists between research laboratories. The agreement was signed in Brussels by J. Donnelly, President of AECL and, on behalf of Euratom, by Commissioner E. Davignon. In brief remarks during the ceremony, Mr. Davignon emphasized the importance of the agreement in the development of Canada-EC relations under the 1976 Framework Agreement. Mr. Donnelly responded that a coordinated research effort had not only bilateral political significance, but would also enable Canada and the Community to tackle their associated scientific programs more efficiently, while demonstrating to an international public a commitment to protect the future.

##### CANADA/EC FISHERIES RELATIONS

Negotiations were held in Brussels, November 26-28, on a new Canada/EC fisheries agreement. The Canadian side was led by