

UNESCO meeting in Calgary

This year's annual meeting of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) focused on the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP) and the 1980 UNESCO general conference held last fall in Belgrade.

The meeting, held recently in Calgary, brought together representatives from more than 100 non-governmental organizations, individual members-at-large and government consultants.

Difference aspects of the IYDP theme were discussed including the aims and operations of the IYDP, Canadian activities and projects, the role of voluntary organizations and the rights of the disabled.

In addition, the Belgrade general conference was reviewed according to sector: education, natural sciences, social sciences, culture and communication.

New northern radio and TV service

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has granted a Yukon-based company a licence for a new radio and television network using *Anik* satellites to reach 334,000 households across the country, reports the *Canadian Press*.

Canadian Satellite Communications Incorporated of Whitehorse, known as Cancom, intends to provide Canadian programs in English, French and various native languages to communities that now receive two or fewer television signals from southern Canada.

Commission chairman John Meisel said that the decision "virtually completes the mixed...broadcasting system that exists in Canada".

Begins in July

Cancom president Rolf Hougen, a major shareholder in the \$21.8-million venture, said his company will begin beaming signals through four TV channels and six radio channels on Telesat Canada's *Anik-B* satellite by mid-July.

The company's other partners are B.C. Television Broadcasting Limited of Vancouver, Allarco Broadcasting Limited of Edmonton, Montreal-based Telemédia Communications Limited and Niagara Television Limited of Hamilton.

Mr. Hougen said that Cancom wants to fill the gap that exists in Canadian broadcasting.

For \$4 a month, Cancom subscribers will get national TV programs produced by the following affiliate stations in Vancouver, Edmonton, Hamilton, Moncton, Montreal and Toronto.

As well, the commission has asked Cancom to broadcast French-language TV programs produced by Quebec's TVA network. In addition, Cancom will broadcast native-language programs produced by and for Inuit and Indians in the north.

In separate decisions the commission also granted licences to Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and the Council for Yukon Indians and Dene Nation on behalf of companies to be incorporated.

Commission officials said existing cable companies in the target areas can use ground stations to receive Cancom's signal from the satellite. However, they must first obtain a commission license to do so.

The capital cost for a basic, four-channel receiver and broadcast centre is estimated at \$46,000. Additional channels will cost \$2,500 each.

Communities without access to cable TV should be able to apply for licences to operate their own receivers and broadcast centres. Commission officials estimated the cost of a private ground station at between \$3,000 and \$30,000 depending upon equipment quality.

Canada's contribution to Asian Development Bank

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.

Mr. MacEachen told the meeting that Canada is following a relatively tight monetary and fiscal policy combined with various policies to keep the Canadian market open and competitive and reduce the country's dependence on imported oil. Despite this policy, he said, Canada has made official development assistance a priority and will attempt to designate .07 per cent of the gross national product towards development assistance by 1985.

"Even though we can now look forward to real growth in our aid program,



Finance Minister Allan MacEachen

we will still face difficult allocation decisions, particularly with respect to the mix of bilateral and multilateral assistance. Canada has allocated proportionately more of its development assistance budget to multilateral aid than most industrial countries," said the minister.

Mr. MacEachen said that he thought appropriate weight should be given to multilateral assistance and that the multilateral development banks deserve strong support. The minister added that the energy sector should serve as the base on which the Asian Development Bank can build a more sizable program of co-financing. "Indeed, this may well be essential if the bank is to achieve its ambitious objective in this field," he said.

In his budget last October, Mr. MacEachen announced as part of Canada's national energy policy the creation of Petro-Canada International. It will spend \$250 million over the next five years in assistance to oil-importing developing countries seeking indigenous sources of energy.

The minister said that the bank should give particular emphasis to co-financing, technical assistance and project preparation activities. "Certainly we have found that such activities call forth a ready response from Canadian banks and businesses and from the Canadian International Development Agency and our Export Development Corporation. Canada considers technical assistance to be a particularly powerful instrument for uncovering investment opportunities attractive to the (Asian Development) Bank and to other lenders," he said.