Defence minister visits NORAD headquarters

Seated at one of the consoles at the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD) underground combat operations centre, Defence Minister Gilles Lamontagne is briefed by Commander-in-chief Lieutenant-General James V. Hartinger, United States Air Force, while Deputy Commander-in-chief Major-General Kenneth Thorneycroft (left) *Canadian Forces looks on. The defence minister recently visited NORAD headquarters in Colorado Springs, United States, for tours, briefings and meetings with the Canadian contingent assigned there.*

Federal government studies liquid fuel options

Canada's potential to develop and use liquid fuels in new ways is examined in a discussion paper recently released by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

A wide range of possibilities for more effective use of existing liquid fuels and development of new fuels is described in the paper which is intended as background for discussions of liquid fuel options by provincial governments, fuel producers and users, and the public.

Opportunities totalling more than 500,000 barrels daily in potential liquid fuel contributions to supply Canada's 1990 requirements are described in the discussion paper. They range from initiatives which are currently under way and expected to be accomplished during the decade to those which depend on improved technology, solution of environmental problems or other developments to make them feasible.

Estimated costs of the options range from \$18 a barrel of oil equivalent, to \$90 a barrel of oil equivalent. Imported oil currently costs about \$38 a barrel.

The paper notes that Canada does not produce enough liquid fuels to meet its own needs. Future supplies of imported oil to make up the deficit would be expensive and insecure.

The largest single potential addition to liquid fuel supplies in 1990 is likely to be from the upgrading of residual fuel oil, currently produced in surplus and exported as a by-product of the refining process. This could add 140,000 barrels daily to liquid fuel supplies. The federal government has embarked on a program to ensure this upgrading is accomplished by the mid-1980s. The use of propane in vehicle fleets and other new markets could eliminate most of the 65,000 barrels a day production currently exported for lack of proper demand in Canada. This provides a good opportunity to substitute a domestic fuel for imported oil.

The paper notes that both residual fuel upgrading and expanded use of propane in transportation could be carried out well within the current cost of imported oil.

Canada-France social security pact

Canada and France recently signed an administrative arrangement completing the Canada-France Agreement on social security.

The arrangement was signed in Ottawa by Canada's Minister of Health and Welfare Monique Bégin and France's Minister of Health and Social Security Jacques Barrot and Minister of Agriculture Pierre Méhaignerie.

The arrangement, which is the culmination of two years of negotiations, defines the provisions for the administration of the agreement signed in Ottawa in February 1979. Canadian and French authorities will take the appropriate measures to ensure ratification of the agreement by their respective legislative assemblies.

The agreement is the second on social security signed by Canada. The first agreement was signed with Italy and has been in effect since January 1979.

The Canada-France Agreement co-ordinates the operation of the Canada Pension Plan and the Old Age Security Act with the operation of the social security programs of France with respect to disability, old age, death and survivors' benefits.

Combining credits

Persons who reside or who have resided in Canada and in France will be permitted to combine social security credits earned in both countries in order to satisfy the minimum eligibility requirements for benefits from one or from both countries. Thus, the agreement attempts to correct situations where a person would be ineligible for social security benefits due to a gap in coverage following a move from one country to another.

In addition, the agreement prevents duplicate coverage, a situation which occurs when a worker finds himself in the position of having to contribute to the social security schemes of two countries. A person who is sent by a Canadian employer to work in France or *vice versa*, may now retain his or her social security coverage and contribute to the scheme of only one country.

Within the framework of the Canada-France Agreement, an understanding has been signed between Quebec and France to ensure that contributors to the Quebec Pension Plan will benefit as well as the contributors to the Canada Pension Plan.