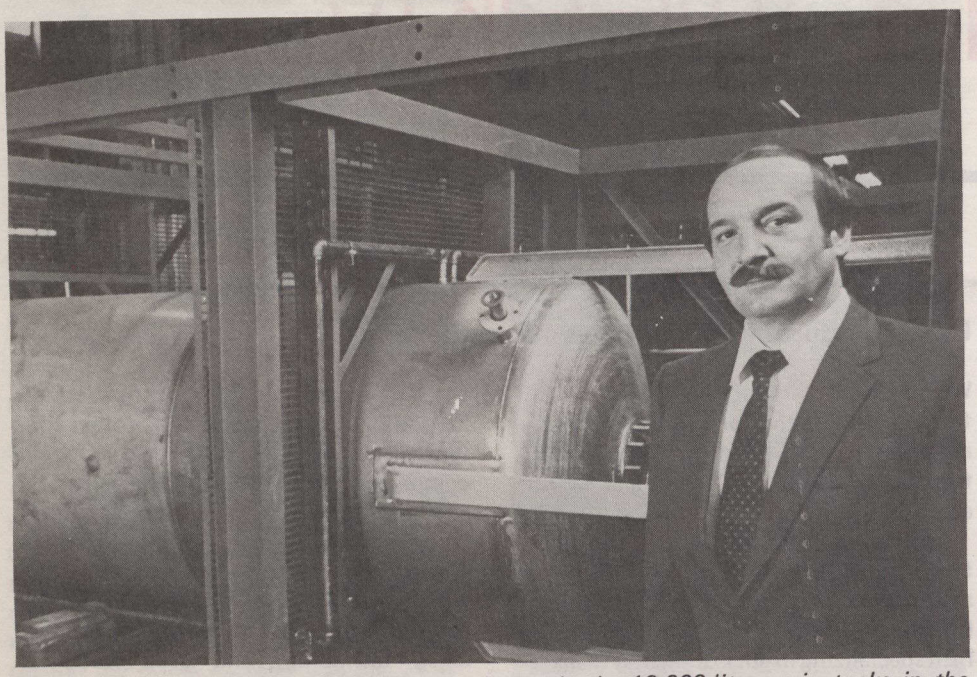

Envirocon vice-president Donald P. Manolescu checks 10 000-litre main tanks in the company's single-cell protein plant.

material is one huge garbage problem — waste that has to be disposed of, usually in very expensive ways. Our process has a 50 per cent conversion rate — one ton (.9 tonnes) of waste in, half a ton (.45 tonnes) of feed supplement out. So operators of our plants could look forward to producing up to 200 000 tons (180 000 tonnes) of supplement a year in total, from this industry alone," said Buchanan.

He added that although some forest industry mills might be interested in operating SCP plants themselves because it would be cheaper than waste disposal, he thinks it more likely that customers for these plants will be entrepreneurs specializing in waste material conversion. Inquiries from this sector have been numerous, along with others from agricultural and forest industry organizations in North America and abroad.

As the pilot plant operation goes forward, Envirocon expects to lower operating costs by making the process more efficient. It will also run comparative tests on different raw materials at different volumes. Plant testing — scheduled to last from one year to 18 months — will be accompanied by feed trials on poultry and livestock.

International meeting on treatment of complex minerals

The second international seminar on metals technology held in Ottawa from October 12-14, was attended by some 100 mineral experts from Canada and Europe.

The three-day seminar, sponsored by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in conjunction with the Commission of the European Communities (EC), was organized under the Framework Agreement for Economic and Commercial Co-operation signed in 1976.

The purpose of the seminar was to promote the development of new technologies for recovering metals from ores, particularly from the complex metallic sulphides commonly found in Canada and other parts of the world.

The participants were scientists and industrial experts from Canada, the European Community, Spain and Portugal, as well as observers from Australia, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the United States with most delegates and observers from the private sector.

Activities included visits to the Ottawa laboratories of the Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology (CANMET).

The seminar was scheduled to enable participants to attend the fourteenth International Mineral Processing Congress held the following week in Toronto.

The first joint Canada-European Community Seminar on non-ferrous metals was held in Brussels in 1980.

Assistance to Thailand and Africa

Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen announced recently that Canada was providing $2 million for humanitarian relief programs in Thailand and Africa.

The funds will be donated to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) through the International Humanitarian Assistance program of the Canadian International Development Agency.

The $1 million for the ICRC's African program will be provided in response to an appeal on behalf of the civilian populations displaced as a result of numerous armed conflicts. The $1 million for Thailand will be devoted to refugee relief programs along the Thailand-Kampuchea border.

Computer link system creates order

Gandalf Technologies Incorporated of Nepean, Ontario has developed a linking system which is expected to bring order out of chaos in the world of computer technology.

The equipment, known as PACXNET, was designed to link up virtually every style of computer in a smoothly functioning network of data communication, allowing customers to "build networks which enable a single terminal to gain access to a wide range of information resources".

The environment in which microchips, modems and nodes are developed is very competitive. Each manufacturer endeavours to outdo the other with new, faster, more reliable technology. Unfortunately, clients often find themselves with rooms full of incompatible computer equipment produced by different manufacturers.

Financing their research and development exclusively from company earnings, Gandalf's philosophy has been to "fill in the gaps" in the computer industry. Since its founding 12 years ago, the company has become a pioneer in the development of data transmission over short distances. Even at that time, the predecessor of PACXNET, the Private Automatic Computer Exchange (PACX) was being developed for McGill University in Montreal.

In the ensuing years Gandalf has penetrated markets in the United States, Canada and Britain.