

has a budget of some \$500,000, will be to investigate environmental problems associated with northern resource development and land-use operations; provide information on undisturbed northern areas; devise and test alternative resource exploration and development procedures, where it is found that present methods result in unacceptable levels of damage; make recommendations to the Department on the basis of data obtained from the research program, and to publish and disseminate information to industry, interested government departments, universities and the scientific community.

Mr. Chrétien emphasized that the ALUR program is not another source of government grants for university-based research, but will be financed on a contractual basis. Industry, (particularly mining and oil) is providing financial and logistic support to the program as well as representation on the advisory committee to the ALUR program.

#### CONSERVATION TASK FORCE

The third project announced by Mr. Chrétien is the formation of a task force on conservation to visit the region of the Mackenzie Delta this month. The group of conservationists and scientists will investigate current environmental problems associated with resource development in the region; suggest measures for inclusion in land-use regulations; establish priorities on problems for which long-term research is required under the ALUR program, and make a written report to the Minister.

The final point in the program is the carrying out this summer of field trials to assess the performance of modern tracked vehicles in a northern environment. The suggestion to conduct summer trials was made earlier this year by the vehicle industry in view of the Department's land-use regulations program.

It was therefore proposed, Mr. Chrétien said, to co-operate with the tracked-vehicle manufacturing and petroleum industries in trials in the area around Tuktoyaktuk during July and August. The Department will pay for the preparation of the test track, but the expenses of the trials will be borne by industry.

#### WATER POLLUTION

In describing measures already taken by his Department to protect the northern environment and promote its orderly development, Mr. Chrétien reviewed two primary programs to prevent pollution in waters of the Far North.

To ensure that northern waters are adequately protected, legislation now before Parliament in the form of the Northern Inland Waters Bill, C-187, and the Arctic Seas Pollution Prevention Act, C-202, provides for the comprehensive management of northern fresh-water resources, and stringent regulations governing ship design, construction, navigational procedures and aids, and pollution liability applicable to all commercial shipping operating within a specified control zone.

Mr. Chrétien also described the steps taken in two other trial areas of transportation.

Under its northern roads program, the Department has completed construction of 1,200 miles of roads in the North during the past nine years. The long-term objective is to bring roads to within 200 miles of all potential areas of resource development.

In co-operation with the Ministry of Transport, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is also engaged in a plan for the construction of ten airports in the Yukon and Northwest Territories to provide year-round contact with southern communities and amenities.

In referring to transportation problems resulting from large oil discoveries in the North, Mr. Chrétien spoke of one proposed alternative to the Arctic tanker - a pipeline route along the Mackenzie Valley to markets of the north and central United States - and said that in July last year a consortium of six companies was formed to investigate the engineering, ecological and economic feasibility of constructing a 48-inch pipeline along that route.

The study, which could take up to three years to complete and is expected to cost about \$3 million, includes a pipeline-testing operation at Inuvik.

#### WORLD FOOD OFFICER

Frank Shefrin of Ottawa, director of the International Liaison Service for the Canada Department of Agriculture, has been elected first vice-chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Program.

Mr. Shefrin headed the Canadian delegation to the meeting in New York recently of the Intergovernmental Committee, consisting of 24 nations, 12 appointed by the United Nations, 12 by the Food and Agriculture Organization.

During the meeting, Mr. Shefrin also presided over a work planning committee that conducted a general review of the WFP projects and approved 29 projects representing a total cost of \$126,603,700.

These projects use food aid to promote the development of human resources, public health programs, improved housing and public amenities, transportation and communications, agriculture and industry.

The Committee also approved a report on multi-lateral food aid, prepared in answer to a request from the United Nations General Assembly, which will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its forty-ninth session to be held in Geneva in July. Mr. Shefrin was a member of the seven-man team which drafted the report for the Intergovernmental Committee.

At the last pledging conference, held in New York early this year, member nations pledged about \$300 million to the WFP for 1971-72. Canada, the second largest contributor to the WFP, pledged \$30 million in food and cash.