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Government agency leader in development information

"The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is one of the very few development assistance organizations to have a program and budget specifically devoted to the information sciences, which has permitted it to become something of a leader in this field," according to the Centre's 1979 review of its activities.

The IDRC, a public corporation, was established in 1970 by the Canadian Government to conduct research into the problems of developing nations. Excerpts from the Centre's annual review entitled, Searching follow:

During the 1978-79 fiscal year the information sciences division supported 20 new projects and, over the past nine years, has been responsible for about 12 per cent of the Centre's project budget.

The work of the division is wide ranging, and its choice of subject areas often reinforces the activities of the other three program divisions:

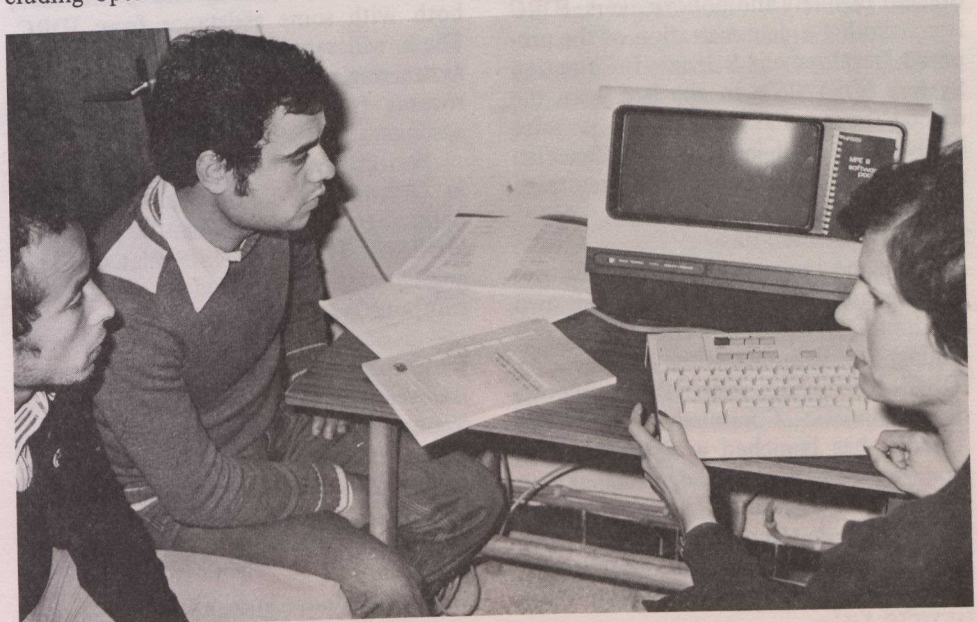
- support for international information systems, either global or regional, with particular emphasis on assisting developing countries to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from such systems;
- support for specialized information centres dealing with topics of importance to international development;
- improvement of library services, including operation of IDRC's own library

to serve as a resource for both the Centre and the development community;

- industrial extension services, especially for small-scale or rural-oriented industries in developing countries;
- cartography, especially the development of teams to apply the data obtained from satellites in order to produce thematic maps; and
- computer science, the application of data-base management systems to the storage and retrieval of information in developing countries.

International co-operation

International co-operation in information work has remained the main focus of the information sciences division over the past year, particularly through co-opera-



Instructor trains Tunisian students on MINISIS system.

One-hundred-and-nine-years ago this week...
An Act establishing uniform currency in the Dominion was passed. Before this law, chartered banks could issue their own currencies and people were free to also use American or English currencies.

tive bibliographic information systems. The "territorial formula", by which each participating country processes only its own documents, results in an equitable sharing of costs. In return for contributing its bibliographic records to the system, the country gains access to the literature of the rest of the world.

The program provides support mainly to regional centres acting on behalf of their member governments. The Agricultural Information Bank for Asia, which is linked to AGRIS, the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) global agricultural information system, has received an IDRC grant for a third phase of operations. Like its counterpart in Latin America, the Asian network is adding to its previous activities, making greater application of computer methods and building new services to deliver documents in response to specific requests.

In the field of population information, the regional centre for Latin America received a second IDRC grant. The objective of the second phase is to decentralize some of the document collection and recording activities to national co-operating institutions. A first grant has also been awarded to an African regional centre for population information.

Both of these centres could eventually form part of a worldwide population information system, POPIN, the design of which was studied in some detail by the United Nations Population Division with the assistance of an IDRC staff member seconded for the purpose.

For the information needed by development planners and policymakers, IDRC is continuing a demonstration of the proposed Development Sciences Information System (DEVSIS). In the last year, the demonstration has resulted in a joint bibliography and index to the Canadian and West German development literature.

Development literature

At the same time, several other countries have been producing indexes to their own development literature and several are joining the demonstration managed by IDRC. Meanwhile, with IDRC support, the Economic Commission for Latin America has launched a similar demonstration with the participation of ten ministries of planning. At the request of the Economic Commission for Africa IDRC managed a group of consultants in defining a program to be known as DEVSIS Africa.

To service requests for MINISIS from a variety of North American institutions, IDRC recently signed a marketing contract with Systemshouse, a Canadian computer software marketing and consulting firm. It is anticipated that in the first year of the contract over ten North American institutions or ministries will purchase the system.

In a large project covering the information from all sectors in one geographic region, IDRC joined several other donors in funding the planning stage of an information network for the Sahel. The project is intended to enable the eight member countries of the *Comité inter-Etats de Lutte Contre la Sécheresse Sahélienne* to share information pertaining to the common problems of the Sahelian drought and at the same time to help them develop national information policies and infrastructures.

In addition to the documentation aspect of international information systems, the division also continues to support the use of a common computer system for bibliographic manipulations. ISIS, a package of computer programs originally developed by the International Labour Office (ILO) for information retrieval and library management, is now used by many institutions, both national and international, some of which have drawn on IDRC for technical advice.

ISIS resource centres have also been established in Pakistan and Costa Rica, both with some assistance from IDRC. These will serve as sources of expertise, as training centres, and will also process records from international and regional systems.

For its own bibliographic processing in Ottawa, the division has now been operating for more than a year with MINISIS. This is an ISIS-related bibliographic system, designed by the Centre's computer scientists....

Reducing duplication of effort

...Developing countries, with their scarce resources and limited research capacity, can ill afford the waste of time and money that results from...duplication of effort, nor for that matter, can the industrialized countries, with all their resources.

The answer is global information networks that carry the latest research data

swiftly from one country to another. One of the most advanced of such networks is AGRIS — the international information system for the agricultural sciences and technology. Operated by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, AGRIS was established with considerable support and assistance from IDRC. It became fully operational in 1975 and now handles more than 100,000 "pieces" of information each year.

The principle behind such systems is simple. Each country (or region) puts in all the data it has available and, in return, gains access to all the data available from other participating countries. Because of the sheer volume of information, such systems must be computerized to operate efficiently, and, in the past, this meant high costs in computer equipment and programs. What was needed was a small computer with a program that could cope with a big job at a relatively low cost. IDRC's computer scientists undertook to try to develop such a package.

It took two years, and the end result was MINISIS, "A minicomputer based information management system".... MINISIS performs all the same functions but on a much less expensive minicomputer.

Versatile minicomputer

The MINISIS package offers many advantages in addition to low cost; perhaps the greatest is its versatility, which enables it to be used for many different applications, including many library management functions. Also important, MINISIS is what computer scientists call a "user friendly" system. In other words, it is easy to learn, even for those with little or no experience of computerized information systems.

In fact, MINISIS...has attracted considerable interest not only from the developing countries, as was intended, but also from governments and institutions in the industrialized nations — including Health and Welfare Canada. Most significant of all, the ILO is planning to replace its ISIS with MINISIS, at considerable savings.

In short, MINISIS is a breakthrough in bibliographic information processing. But if the developing countries are to be able to benefit from this advance, they need to be able to obtain experience with the system through on-the-job training. To provide this, IDRC hopes to establish

(Continued on P. 8)

NAFO meetings in Toronto

Fishermen on Canada's Atlantic coast stand to benefit as a result of decisions reached by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) at special meetings which concluded recently in Toronto.

In the cod fishery on the southern Grand Banks (NAFO divisions 3N0), which straddles Canada's 200-mile exclusive fishing zone, NAFO established a total allowable catch (TAC) of 26,000 metric tons for 1980. Of this total, Canada was allocated 9,800 metric tons, with the remainder divided variously among foreign countries which traditionally fish in the area, including France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Portugal, Spain and the U.S.S.R.

It had been decided at the NAFO annual meeting last June that as a conservation measure there should be no directed fishery for cod on the southern Grand Banks. However, subsequent scientific assessments have indicated an improvement in the state of the stock and a TAC of 26,000 metric tons was suggested. Supporting the recommendation, Canadian officials pointed out that the revised TAC would include about 10,000 metric tons of cod which would have been taken as by-catches (i.e. while fishing other species) even without a directed fishery for the 3N0 stock.

In the squid (*illex*) fishery off the Canadian Atlantic coast, which occurs almost entirely within Canada's 200-mile fishing zone, a TAC of 150,000 metric tons was established for 1980. Of this amount, 14,250 metric tons was allocated to foreign fishing fleets, with the remaining 135,750 metric tons to be managed by Canada, (which will include certain allocations to foreign countries under bilateral agreements).

In view of the continued depressed state of the capelin stocks, NAFO agreed that there would be no offshore fishing for this species off Canada's Atlantic coast in 1980. The only capelin taken will be that fished by Canada's inshore fishermen.

At the conclusion of the NAFO meeting, Canadian officials also announced that they had successfully negotiated a six-month fisheries agreement with Spain.

The agreement includes cod fishing privileges for Spain within the Canadian 200-mile zone.

Former high commissioner lauded



Former Canadian High Commissioner in London, Paul Martin, who studied at Cambridge more than 50 years ago, will receive an honorary doctor of law degree from the university during ceremonies in early June. Cambridge awards about eight honorary degrees each year. "The recipients aren't necessarily Cambridge grads but generally people who have contributed to the academic or intellectual life of the world," said Geoff Skelsey, assistant to the vice-chancellor.

Human rights report presented

Canada's report on its observance of the principles of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights was presented to the Human Rights Committee at the Office of the United Nations in Geneva on March 25.

Canada initially submitted its report to the United Nations Secretary General last spring. The report was then translated into the United Nations' languages and given to all members of the United Nations Committee which is constituted under the Covenant. Now, in line with the procedures followed by all states party to the Covenant, Canada will be represented in Geneva by a delegation to introduce the report and answer any questions Committee members may have on its content.

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan recalled that Canada be-

came a party to the Covenant in May 1976, following extensive consultations between the federal and provincial governments. He noted that the composition of the Canadian delegation appearing before the Committee is symbolic of the federal-provincial co-operation which the preparation of the 480-page report entailed. It reflects the commitment of federal and provincial governments to Canada's responsibilities as a party to the Covenant, Dr. MacGuigan said.

Canadian foreign service reorganization begins

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has announced that a reorganization of Canada's foreign service has been started.

For the three departments involved, External Affairs, Industry, Trade and Commerce, and Employment and Immigration, it will mean a full integration into External Affairs of their foreign service officers at the senior executive level.

For foreign service personnel at the operational level below the executive group, management control will be divided between the departments of External Affairs and Industry, Trade and Commerce. This will preserve the independent identity of the Trade Commissioner Service at the operating level. Immigration operations abroad, however, will be merged into those of External Affairs.

Foreign operations personnel of the Canadian Government Office of Tourism will be integrated into the Trade Commissioner Service, with some career safeguards for officers who do not have experience with the full range of foreign service responsibilities.

The Prime Minister also announced that he plans to commission a special study on the terms and conditions of foreign service from the point of view of foreign service officers and their families.

Some 1,300 public servants are classified as foreign service officers, divided approximately 750 in External Affairs, 300 in the Trade Commissioner Service of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and 250 in Immigration.

Another 150 are also involved in foreign service work, mostly in the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Office of Tourism, plus a few officers from other departments on foreign assignments.

Submersibles search for oil

Unmanned submersibles designed and manufactured in Port Moody, British Columbia, are rapidly becoming the workhorses of the offshore oil exploration industry.

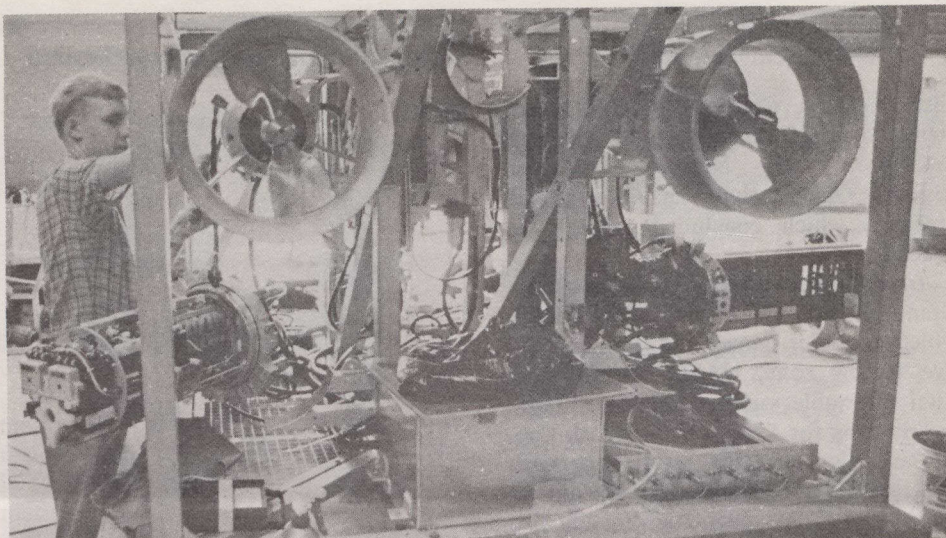
International Submarine Engineering Ltd. (ISE), located in the Vancouver suburb, builds unmanned tethered remote control vehicles equipped with television cameras and a variety of manipulator systems. The submersible is able to perform a wide variety of underwater tasks such as inspection, survey and support.

And ISE is now developing a submarine, the *Wrangler*, which will be manned by one person. The machine should be ready for testing in the coming months.

Works like diver

"We feel that up to 70 per cent of the jobs that once required a diver now can be performed by these vehicles," says Hari Sharma, ISE vice-president, finance. "These units can inspect pipelines, drilling platforms, undersea cables, repair and recover articles, work under the ice caps — all at up to 3,000 feet below the surface," he says.

The submersible is controlled by an operator, sitting at a control panel on the oil rig or support ship, using the tele-



Technician installs electronic components on a TROV.

vision camera as the operator's eyes and the manipulator to do the actual work.

ISE designs and manufactures three of the most popular submersibles; the large one- to three-ton *TROV*; the intermediate 450-lb. *TREC* and the *DART*, a 100-lb. deep access (1,200 feet) reconnaissance television camera.

The first *TROV* sale was to the Canadian Centre for Inland Waters, in September 1975. The ten other sales have been to American, French and British oil industry servicing companies. Their most recent sale, to the United States Navy, is

in conjunction with their Underwater Recovery System. This *TROV* will recover test torpedoes on the bottom of undersea testing ranges.

The *TREC* has been sold exclusively to foreign buyers. A *TREC* for instance, was used to photograph the underwater damage caused by the June 1979 oil well accident in the Gulf of Mexico.

ISE's latest development, the *DART*, has just completed testing, and the first unit has been delivered to the Singapore-based Kalatec Seatronics for underwater cable inspection.

Visitors from overseas set new records

A record two million visitors from overseas countries visited Canada in 1979, the Canadian Government Office of Tourism (CGOT) has announced.

A total of 2,010,632 visitors came to Canada from countries other than the United States between January and December 1979, an increase of more than 18 per cent over the 1,706,207 overseas visitors who travelled to Canada in 1978. The number of overseas visitors increased from one million to two million in six years. In 1973, Canada recorded 1.1 million visits from overseas countries.

Milestones were set in three areas in 1979. The number of visitors from Britain, Canada's major source of overseas visitors, exceeded 500,000 for the first time; visitors from West Germany totalled more than 200,000 while visitors to Canada from the Netherlands exceeded 100,000.

The year 1979 was also the first year

that the number of visitors to Canada from overseas countries exceeded the number of Canadians going to these countries.

All seven countries which form CGOT's overseas market showed substantial increases in the numbers of visitors to Canada in 1979, as compared with 1978. The number of visitors from France increased by 17.9 per cent, West Germany by 26 per cent, the Netherlands by 18.9 per cent, Britain by 18.4 per cent, Japan by 24.1 per cent, Mexico by 17.7 per cent and Australia by 13.7 per cent.

While Canada recorded a total of 31,191,590 visitors from the United States in 1979, the total was down 3.1 per cent from the same period in 1978.

Reasons cited for the decrease included problems with the price and availability of gasoline, which kept many Americans at home during the summer of 1979.

Genealogy conference

The American-Canadian Genealogical Society will hold its spring conference May 3, in Manchester, New Hampshire.

This year's program will consist of a series of speakers and workshops designed to help Americans of Canadian ancestry in doing their genealogical research.

Conference speakers will include: Patricia Kennedy, pre-Confederation Archivist, who will speak on the resources and research in the Public Archives of Canada; Rev. Julien Deziel, president of La Société Généalogique Canadienne-Française, who will speak on genealogical research in French Canada; and Dr. David McDougall, a member of the Quebec Family History Society, who will present a program on "English Quebecers in the Gaspé Peninsula, the Eastern Townships, Trois Rivières and Quebec City".

The society has an enrolment of over 1,300 members from the United States and Canada.

Agricultural forecast for 1980-81

Agriculture Canada economists say farmers will have to plant about 26 million acres of wheat and increase barley plantings to 12 million acres this spring to fill export and domestic needs in 1980-81.

Canadian wheat exports are forecast to be between 14.5 and 16.5 million metric tons in 1980-81 because of continued strong world demand. World wheat consumption is expected to exceed production by 15 to 20 million metric tons this year. This strong demand for wheat is expected to result in an 11 percent increase in world wheat trade.

Canada's wheat and flour exports in 1979-80 are forecast to be 13.25 to 14.75 million metric tons, up from last year's 13.1 million metric tons.

Wheat exports to February were 8 percent below last year, but are expected to pick up in the latter part of the crop year because of the increased number of hopper cars, the extension of the boxcar rehabilitation program, the expansion of terminal facilities on the West Coast and the March reopening of the Second Narrows Bridge in Vancouver.

If Canadian farmers plant 26 million acres of wheat for 1980, this is likely to produce a crop of about 20 million metric tons. (In 1979, 17.7 million metric tons were produced in Canada from 25.9 million acres.) A crop of this size would meet both domestic and export needs for the 1980-81 crop year.

Coarse grains

World coarse grain prices should remain above current levels for the remainder of



Rapeseed pours into railway car on way to export markets.



Fields of yellow-coloured rapeseed bloom in the summer in the Prairies.

the 1979-80 crop year because of strong export demand and the effects of the United States grain programs.

World trade in coarse grains is expected to remain high despite U.S. restrictions on grain sales to the Soviet Union. World trade for 1979-80 is forecast at 99 million metric tons, about 10 percent higher than last year.

Canadian coarse grain prices for the rest of the 1979-80 crop year will likely be above current levels. Off-board barley prices should be at, or near, corn-competitive prices, and both should move up slightly over the next few months in line with U.S. corn prices.

Carryover of coarse grains at the end of this crop year is expected to be about 3.8 million metric tons, down from 7.1 million metric tons a year earlier. This is due to reduced production and increased use resulting largely from higher Canadian hog production.

In 1980-81, domestic use of coarse grains will likely decline slightly because of lower hog production.

The expected decline in the domestic use of barley will likely be offset by higher exports. To meet the probable demand for barley in 1980-81, up to a 30 percent increase in seeded area is indicated. This would require barley plantings of about 12 million acres.

Domestic demand for corn in 1980-81 should remain strong and the area planted to corn could increase. Expanded production could decrease imports of U.S. corn in the coming year.

Oilseeds outlook

World oilseed supplies are expected to increase more in 1980-81 than the demand for oilseed products. As a result, oilseed

prices will likely remain low throughout 1980.

In Canada, a sizeable reduction from the 8.5 million acres of rapeseed planted in 1979 may be desirable. Plantings of 6.5 million acres, with average yields, should be adequate to meet requirements.

Canadian rapeseed will likely meet stiff competition from large U.S. soybean stocks and tropical oils in world markets in the coming year.

World demand for flaxseed has increased mainly because of expanded interest from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Flaxseed markets should remain firmer in 1980-81 than was anticipated in December. For flaxseed supplies to stay at this year's level, about 1.8 million acres would have to be planted.

A small but steady increase in Canadian soybean plantings outside the traditional areas is expected during the next few years.

Canada's most important export markets for grain are the European Economic Community, Japan, China and the U.S.S.R. Grains and oilseeds together constitute some 70 per cent of the value of agricultural exports. (Agricultural exports in turn account for about 10 per cent of the total value of all exports.) Grains and grain products (especially wheat) had an export value of approximately \$2.6 billion in 1978, oilseeds and oilseed products some \$645 million. Two-thirds of Canadian wheat production, roughly 15 million metric tons, is exported and Canadian wheat claims a 17 percent share of the world's export market, second only to the United States.

Mild winter kills tulips

Ottawa's annual tulip festival may be short of its main attraction this year because as many as a third of the 500,000 tulip bulbs may have died during the unusually mild winter.

Lack of snow to protect the bulbs from frost is the culprit, says Neil MacLaren, landscape manager for the National Capital Commission, the federal agency that runs the famous gardens.

Mr. MacLaren says there is no way of knowing for sure how many bulbs were killed or where the losses are but he is "afraid there will be big gaps".

The popular tulip festival, which began in 1952 and has been known as the Festival of Spring since 1974, attracted 400,000 people last year, at least half of them from outside Ottawa, organizers say.

Between 150,000 and 200,000 tulip bulbs are usually replanted each year. Mr. MacLaren said he expected many more would have to be replaced this fall.

Queen Juliana of the Netherlands still sends 10,000 tulip bulbs to the city each year to commemorate the two-and-a-half years she spent in Ottawa during the Second World War when her country was occupied. Her daughter, Princess Margriet, was born in Ottawa.

Canadians take world championship

A Canadian team registered a perfect record in taking the world men's curling championship held recently in Moncton, New Brunswick.

Rick Folk and his rink from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan beat the defending champion Kristian Soerum of Norway in the final game of the Air Canada Silver Broom.

The foursome made up of Folk, Ron Mills and brothers Tom and Jim Wilson won the first world men's title for Canada since 1972. Folk, who finished second on two occasions in the Canadian championships before winning the title in Calgary this year, directed his rink to a 9-0 record in preliminary play. He was the first to go undefeated in round-robin play since 1974. The Canadian rink finished with a 10-0 record, followed by Norway at 8-3 and Switzerland at 7-3.

Nine countries took part in the championship: the United States, Scotland, Switzerland, France, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Sweden and Canada.

The first Air Canada Silver Broom competition took place at Pointe Claire, Quebec in 1968. Until then, the world championship had been under the sponsorship of the Scotch Whiskey Association and was held annually in Scotland. It is now held in one of the participating countries.

Moncton is the fourth Canadian city to be awarded the tournament after Pointe Claire, Winnipeg and Regina. Next year London, Ontario will host the competition. Bern, Switzerland was the host in 1979.

Operation first for Canada

Montreal heart surgeons made Canadian medical history recently when they employed a tiny plastic balloon to clear a blocked artery in a 35-year-old truck driver.

The operation spared Gilles Beaulieu of Montreal immediate open-heart surgery.

The technique, developed in Switzerland, is called percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty — but the idea is simple.

Dr. Martial Bourassa and Dr. Paul David of the Montreal Heart Institute said that a branch of Mr. Beaulieu's coronary artery, the main vessel supplying the heart with blood, was blocked by fatty deposits on the inside of its walls.

The blockage was preventing sufficient blood from reaching the heart, causing chest pains known as *angina*.

Doctors located the blockage by taking a moving X-ray of Mr. Beaulieu's heart. They injected dye into his coronary artery through a long hollow tube called a catheter that had been threaded through a blood vessel in the patient's leg up into the artery.

The balloon had been attached to the end of the tube. Air was pumped in the tube, inflating the balloon for a few seconds at a time. This pushed the soft, fatty material into the artery wall and reopened a wide channel for the blood to flow through.

The balloon technique is cheaper than open-heart surgery and keeps a patient in hospital for only a few days. But the technique is not foolproof. There is a 2- or 3-percent chance a patient will have a heart attack during the procedure, Dr. Bourassa said, and about 10 per cent of blockages develop again three to six months later, making surgery necessary.

California still wants Western Canadian gas

California is eyeing Western Canada as a continuing source of natural gas supplies beyond 1985 when most of the existing exports terminate, reports Thomas Kennedy in the *Globe and Mail*, March 8.

Mr. John Bryson, chairman of the state's Public Utilities Commission (PUC) said that California will want to receive at least as much gas from Alberta in the latter part of the decade as it does now — about one billion cubic feet a day — in addition to Alaskan fuel delivered through the proposed Alaska Highway pipeline.

Mr. Bryson led a three-member PUC delegation to Alberta and Ottawa to explore the possibilities for continued gas deliveries and to discuss present and future gas pricing.

He said Californians "are very concerned" about the "sudden and big" jump in the border price of western Canadian gas ordered last month.

The export price went up 30 per cent to \$4.47 (U.S.) a thousand cubic feet. Northern and central California consumers will have to pay another \$400 million (U.S.) annually for the fuel.

Alberta has already indicated that it has surplus gas that it would like to sell in its traditional markets, but the actual export decision is up to the National Energy Board.

Mr. Bryson said Western Canada will not be relegated to an auxiliary supply role even after Alaskan gas begins to flow to the state. Alaskan gas in a liquefied form will soon begin to come ashore at a terminal to be built near Los Angeles.

Scientists elected to Royal Society

Two Canadian scientists have been elected fellows of the Royal Society of London, the highest scientific honour offered in Britain.

Dr. Zbigniew Stanislaw Basinski, head of the crystal plasticity group at the National Research Council, was honoured for his studies of the plasticity of metals.

Dr. Basinski and the other Canadian, Professor Louis Siminovitch, chairman of the medical genetics department at the University of Toronto, who was lauded for his study of bacterial and somatic cell genetics, were among 40 scientists elected during a recent society meeting.

News of the arts

Exhibit traces history of Royal Canadian Academy of Arts

The exhibition, *To Found a National Gallery: The Royal Canadian Academy of Arts 1880-1913*, marks the hundredth birthday of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts and the National Gallery of Canada, both founded in 1880 by the Governor General of Canada, the Marquis of Lorne and his wife, the daughter of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, Princess Louise.

Travelling exhibit

The exhibition, which is supported by Imperial Oil Limited, is on view in Ottawa until April 27 before travelling to the Art Gallery of Ontario (Toronto), the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Glenbow Museum (Calgary) and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

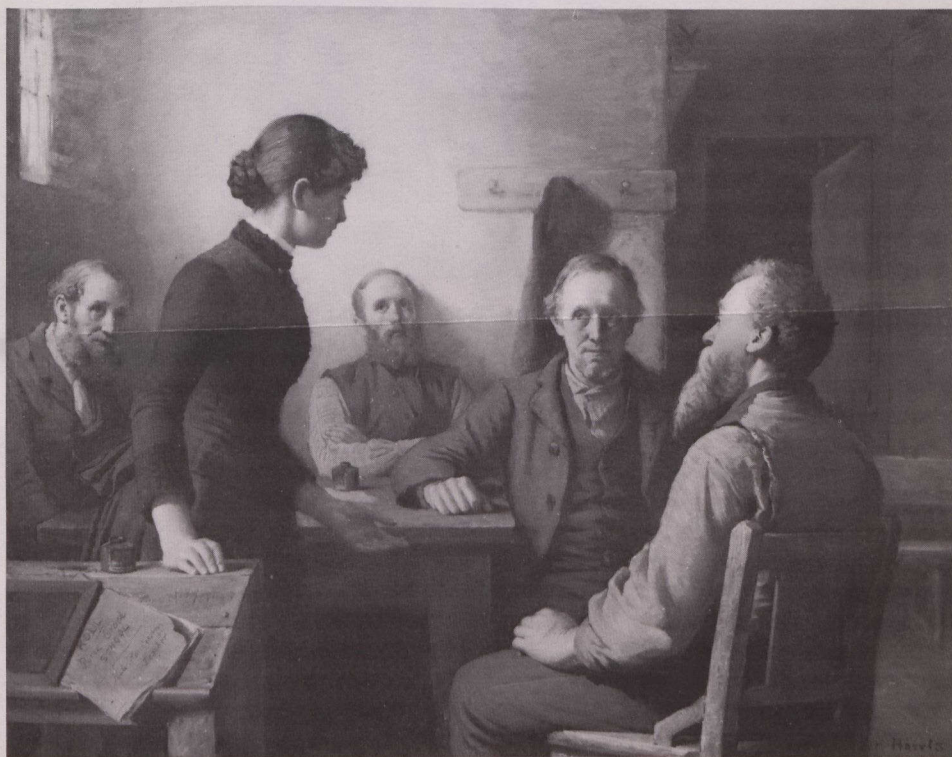
The evolution of Canadian art during these years and the Academy's role in fostering these developments is illustrated in over 110 works including drawings, paintings, sculpture and architectural drawings borrowed from public and private collections across Canada. Also included are many of the diploma works which were deposited in the National Gallery by the artists upon their election as Academicians, and which formed the



Return from the Harvest, by Aurèle de Foy.

nucleus of the Gallery's collections. Lucius O'Brien's *Sunrise on the Saguenay*, Charlotte Schreiber's *The Croppy Boy*, William Brymner's *The Wreath of Flowers*, George Reid's *Mortgaging the Homestead*,

Hamilton MacCarthy's bust of Lucius O'Brien, Louis Philippe Hébert's *Inspiration*, Thomas Fuller's design for the first Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, and William G. Storm's design for Toronto University, were donated to the National Gallery by the artists.



A Meeting of the School Trustees by Robert Harris.

Experience of artists illustrated

The exhibition also illustrates the experience of Canadian artists trained in Europe, the influence this training had on Canadian art and their efforts to advance art education in Canada. The role of the Academicians in promoting public art in the form of sculptural monuments and murals is also demonstrated by Louis Philippe Hébert's sculptural relief for the Monument to Monsignor Bourget in Montreal, Robert Harris' full scale drawing for *The Fathers of Confederation*, George Reid's mural *Ave Canada*, destined for the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, Napoléon Bourassa's studies for his lifelong work, *The apotheosis of Christopher Columbus*, and Marc Aurèle Suzor-Coté's nine by 13-foot canvas... *The Landing of Jacques Cartier at Stadacona* borrowed from the Musée du Québec.

In 1913 Parliamentary acts separated the National Gallery from its parent body, the Royal Canadian Academy.

IDRC (Continued from P. 2)

MINISIS resource centres at strategic locations around the world, preferably at institutions that already have major programs of information processing and computer science, and, where possible, in association with postgraduate schools of information science.

Considerable interest has been shown by the francophone countries of Africa — in fact Tunisia and Zaire have already acquired minicomputers with the intention of installing MINISIS programs. Specialists from both countries spent two weeks in Ottawa being trained on the Centre's minicomputer. In response to the interest

from francophone developing countries, the information sciences division earlier this year drew up a two-year project to provide training and documentation for MINISIS in French and to ensure a capability for implementing and maintaining the program on minicomputer installation in francophone countries.

Computer science is advancing rapidly, and it is quite conceivable that the minicomputers will eventually be overtaken by the advent of microcomputers, which will be even less expensive. If and when that happens, many of the developing nations will already have gained the experience with MINISIS that will enable them to continue taking advantage of the latest technology.

News briefs

U.S. Secretary of Energy Charles Duncan met with Energy Minister Marc Lalonde in Ottawa on March 24. The two ministers discussed the international energy situation, gas export pricing, synthetic fuel development, northern gas pipeline, energy conservation and other questions.

Molson Companies Ltd. of Montreal has agreed to purchase for about \$2 million (U.S.) the chemical specialties business of the Wyandott Corp. of Parsippany, New Jersey, a member of the BASF group. The acquisition is subject to regulatory approval and is expected to be completed in 60 days. The Wyandotte chemical specialties division markets in Canada, the United States and other countries more than 400 brand products for cleaning and sanitizing purposes. It had sales last year of about \$64 million from four plants in the United States and Canada with a total of 750 employees. Molson said the acquisition will become a part of Molson's Diversey Corp. unit.

Alberta's Heritage Savings and Trust Fund is nearing the \$6-billion mark. The

latest quarterly report — for the period ended December 31, 1979 — shows total assets at \$5.8 billion. The fund is made up of 30 per cent of royalties from sales of non-renewable natural resources such as oil.

The Federal and Saskatchewan governments recently signed a \$18-million agreement for the demonstration of energy conservation and renewable energy technologies. Under the four-year agreement, the governments will share equally the cost of projects that demonstrate the potential for energy savings or encourage the development and adoption of alternative energy sources. Criteria for project selection will include the cost-effectiveness of the proposal, contribution to provincial and national energy objectives, public accessibility and the technical merits of the proposals. The program will fund projects that have the potential for broad future applications.

The Board of Directors of the Export Development Corporation (EDC) has approved loans, surety and export credits insurance totalling \$359.14 million to support export sales of \$549.39 million to 14 countries. The countries are Argentina, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Britain, Greece, Hungary, Mexico, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, the United States and Yugoslavia. In announcing the approvals, EDC said that export sales which would result if commercial sales are finalized will create or maintain some 14,997 man-years of employment in Canada and will involve some 166 exporters and major suppliers across the country.

A seven-year moratorium on uranium exploration in British Columbia was announced on February 28 by the provincial government. Most uranium prospects in the province are largely in the exploration stage. The freeze terminates a Royal Commission set up in 1978 to set out guidelines for the approval of uranium development projects.

The Air Cadet League of Canada has captured the Nile Gold Medal in recognition of its work in the field of aerospace education. The medal is presented annually by the Aero Club of Egypt to the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI), which in turn awards it to the organization judged to be the most deserving. The Air Cadet League was commended for its promotion of aviation education in Canada and for developing, in co-operation with the Department of National Defence, a program which has involved more than 600,000 teen-aged air cadets since 1941.

Cadillac Explorations Ltd. of Calgary plans to develop a silver-lead-zinc mine in the Nahanni Valley of the Northwest Territories, at a cost of \$35 million. The company said construction is expected to begin this summer with initial production slated for late 1981. The mining and milling rate will be 1,000 tons daily. Cadillac said a feasibility study shows the mine will produce two million ounces of silver, 55,000 tons of lead and 5,000 tons of zinc annually.

Sask Tel, Saskatchewan's Crown-owned telecommunications company, made a profit of \$25.2 million in 1979, up from \$19.5 million in 1978. The company's annual report showed last year's revenues at \$197 million and expenditures at \$140 million.

Mitel Corporation of Ottawa has signed a \$2.5 million contract with Telecom SARRL, a division of Al Bassam International of Saudi Arabia, to supply super-switch electronic equipment to Saudi Arabia during the next year.

The University of British Columbia (UBC) student chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers has been awarded a 1979 Award of Excellence by the institute for "outstanding achievement in activities relating to furthering the goals of professionalism and chemical engineering among students...". The award to the UBC student chapter is one of 11 made annually by the institute on a regional basis. A total of 131 student chapters are eligible for the awards.

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