



**Whales trapped**  
A Narwhal whale is trapped in ice in Hall Bay, Springdale, Newfoundland. Along with three surviving humpback whales also trapped by Arctic ice that closed in Halls Bay, the whales kept alive by the efforts of local residents and scientists.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REPORT**

**Solar prospects 'bright'**

N.Y. Times  
WASHINGTON - The Council on Environmental Quality said Wednesday that the prospects for increasing use of solar energy "are brighter than most imagine" and that, if efforts to develop its use were accelerated, a combination of solar technologies could supply one-fourth of the nation's energy needs by the year 2000.

The council, which advises the president on environmental matters, added that "for the period beyond the turn of the century it is now possible to speak realistically of the United States becoming a solar society" with the possibility of significantly more than half of energy needs being met by that renewable source.

These assessments were part of a 52-page report prepared by the council after an eight month survey of hundreds of other recent reports and technological literature, and it painted a significantly more optimistic picture of future solar development than recent predictions by the Department of Energy.

A council member, Gus

Speth, told a news conference that the council had been in consultation with the Energy Department and that he hoped there would be an increase in budget funds for solar energy research.

He also said that reaching the forecasts made in the report would "not be easy" and would require both a "strong" energy conservation program and an end to tax and other subsidies for conventional fuels to make solar technologies more economically attractive.

However, Speth and council staff members insisted Wednesday's report was "realistic."

The report defined "solar" energy not only as direct sunlight but almost all non-conventional sources including wind, plant material or "biomass," ocean temperature gradients and even hydroelectric power.

A possibly controversial aspect of the report is that CEQ estimates total U.S. energy demand by 2000 at 100 quadrillion British Thermal Units, about 15 quadrillion less than that forecast by the Department of Energy.

ment of Energy. A "quad," or quadrillion of energy, is enough to heat 500,000 homes for 20 years.

"Solar energy is already a serious option with numerous applications at or near commercial feasibility," the report said, especially for hot water heating, space heating, cooling, small scale hydro-power plants, wind turbines and fuels from biomass.

Solar thermal systems could provide as much as four percent of energy needs in the year 2000, CEQ said, if, for instance, one-fourth of all new homes built until then or about 25 million homes were fitted with solar heating.

So-called "intermediate temperature systems" are promising possibilities, the council said. These involve solar collectors using tracking mirrors that can convert sunlight to heat as high as 550 degrees which could provide "process heat" for such industries as chemicals, textiles and food processing. The report said this technology could provide from 2 percent to 5 percent of the energy demand predicted by the coun-

oil for the year 2000, "assuming a serious conservation effort."

Photovoltaic solar cells that convert sunlight into electricity are still too expensive to be feasible commercially, but the price has fallen greatly "and there appear to be no fundamental barriers to further progress," the report said. The system could provide from two to eight "quads" of power by the year 2000.

**LEBANON PEACEKEEPING**

**Canada agrees to help**

OTTAWA (CP) - Canada has agreed to stay in the United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon to Oct. 1 and to increase its contribution to 80 troops, External Affairs Minister Don Jamieson said today.

The Minister told the Commons external affairs committee the decision was reached after consultations with UN officials in New York.

The troops will be principally signallers drawn from the reserves. There are 35 signallers and other support troops in southern Lebanon, drawn from 1,100 regular troops now serving in UN forces along the Egyptian and Syrian borders with Israel.

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was set up after Israeli troops invaded southern Lebanon in mid-March to wipe out Palestinian guerrilla bases.

The UN force is to remain in southern Lebanon until Israeli troops have pulled out and a stable peace is assured.

Defence Minister Barney Danson said Wednesday that the UN had asked for 140 to 150 troops. But Canada felt 80 troops would be enough. There are experienced Canadian servicemen in other UN peacekeeping units in the Middle East who could be rushed in in an emergency, the minister said.

The government said last month it would be willing to send troops to Lebanon for two to four weeks only. The Canadian forces were to remain in Lebanon only until UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim could find replacements.

That search has been unsuccessful and Canada was asked to stay on, government sources say.

Danson and Jamieson have said they are reluctant to be committed to further peacekeeping duties because logistics troops, like signallers, are already stretched in existing UN forces in the Middle East and Cyprus.

Jamieson told the committee that the government received an urgent request to set up a communications network for UNIFIL.

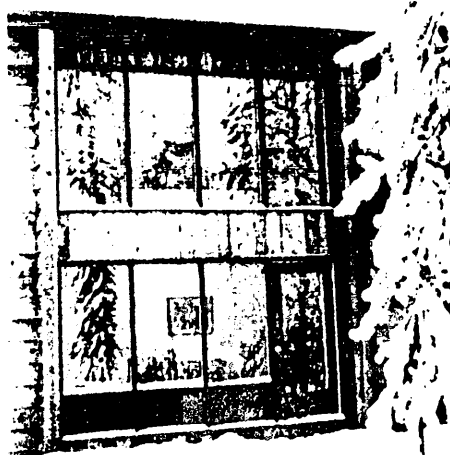
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**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION ANNOUNCEMENT**

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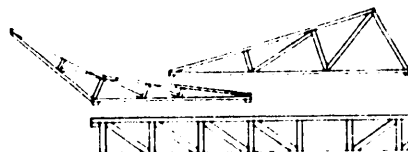
Mr. R. Broad, representing the department of Veterans Affairs, will be at the Legion on;

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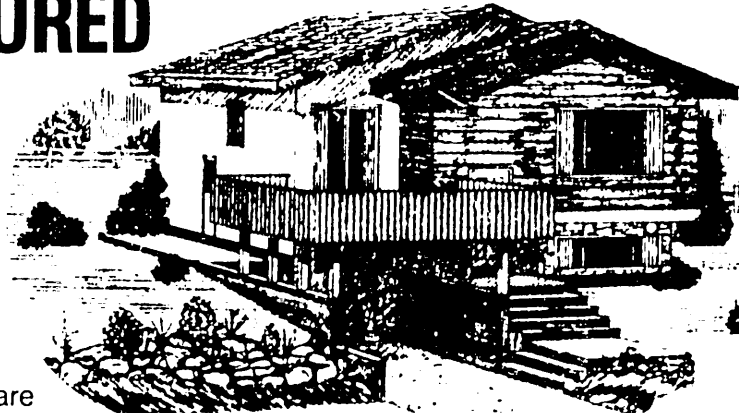
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