

Estuary to be 'flagship' in EC talks

By Dymphna Bracken

THE provision of the necessary infrastructure to underpin the integrated economic development of the Shannon estuary will be one of the major flagship projects for the next round of EC funds, the Taoiseach has confirmed in the Dail.

He said that his proposals for the integrated economic development of the Shannon estuary had been made in the context of a series of policies and measures to establish Ireland as a economically strategic trading bridgehead between the European community and third countries.

As his request, he said, a special economic development officer in his department is currently co-ordinating the strategic planning and preliminary international marketing of this concept.

Discussions have recently been held with a number of relevant ministeries in the Russian federation and the department are also talking to relevant interests in other countries such as Canada, Hungary, Mexico, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, China and South Africa.

Tentative approaches have been made to addi-

tional countries and the department are awaiting the reaction.

The Taoiseach emphasised that strategic planning is at a relatively early stage, but he was confident that this will result in specific project proposals in the relatively near future.

The maritime aspects of the development of the Shannon estuary will, of course, be the direct responsibility of the Department of the Marine and of the various maritime authorities which operate under the aegis of that Department.

The IDA and Shannon Development are actively involved in the planning and promotional work.

Replies to questions from Deputies Dick Spring, Jimmy Deenihan and Michael Finucane, the Taoiseach said he would make a fuller statement as soon as he had positive results from their international promotional programme.

Barriers

ALDERMAN Jim Kemmy has called on the Corporation to erect barriers at Saxon corner. He suggested that such barriers would prove a safety precaution for the many persons using the junction.

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