



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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CANADA'S NEWEST CANCER WEAPON

An address by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, delivered at the official opening of the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation's Cobalt 60 Beam Therapy Clinic, Toronto.

.... We are gathered here today to mark a most significant step forward in the programme of the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation -- the official opening of a Toronto clinic for a new Cobalt 60 Beam Therapy Unit. It is a matter of considerable pride to me, of course, that the Federal Government, in co-operation with provincial authorities, has been able to provide substantial financial support for the establishment of this clinic and the installation of the so-called "Cobalt Bomb".

The National Health Programme

In recent years no nation has shown greater energy than Canada in its efforts to defeat the deadly scourge of cancer. Because of this, there is developing all across this country a growing unity of effort and a better-balanced distribution of facilities and services for the detection and treatment of this disease.

To supplement the efforts of the provincial governments and of agencies like the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation, a very considerable cancer grant was included in the National Health Programme inaugurated five and a half years ago. Since the beginning of this Programme, the Federal Government has set aside more than \$15,000,000 to be used on a matching basis with funds provided by the provinces to buy equipment; to train and employ staff; to purchase radium; to support research; and to make possible installations of the new Canadian-developed Cobalt 60 Beam Therapy Units.

As a result, while cancer is still the second leading cause of death in Canada, there is greater hope for the cancer sufferer today than ever before. In cancer research, for example, more has been accomplished in the last thirty years than in the preceding three centuries. As we are gradually coming to understand more about the nature of cancer, increased efforts are at the same time being made to improve treatment facilities, to extend preventive and diagnostic services and to develop greater public awareness of the known facts about cancer.