

Canada Weekly

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Soviet satellite search ceases

The hunt for debris from *Cosmos 954*, the Soviet satellite that plunged to earth in the frozen northland of the Northwest Territories last January, has ended, announced the Atomic Energy Control Board on October 18.

Some 75 kilograms of material have been recovered, including cylinders and short rods of beryllium, by federal agencies, the United States Department of Energy and affiliated experts, under the joint leadership of the Department of National Defence and the AECB. The cost has been estimated at \$14 million.

The work was carried out in two stages, Phase 1 beginning January 24 to mid-April and Phase 2 from mid-July to mid-October. The Geological Survey of Canada, with its unique airborne detection expertise, played an important part in the operation early in the year (see *Canada Weekly* dated June 21, Page 4). The summer-time search extended into northern Saskatchewan and Alberta in an effort to locate and remove tiny radioactive particles that had drifted south of the main

satellite re-entry trajectory over Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories.

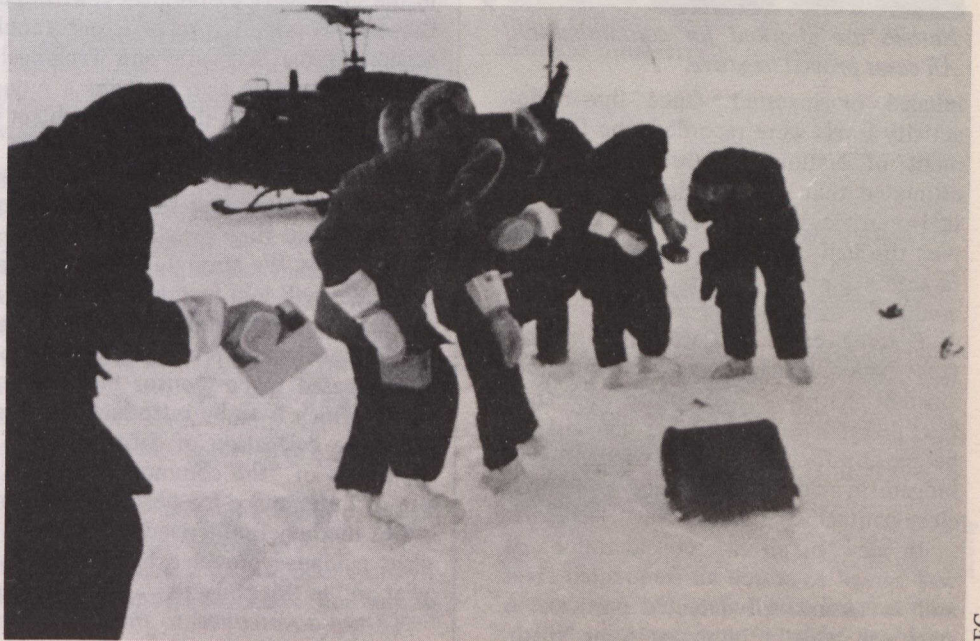
Nature of find

While some of the findings were partly destroyed, others were remarkably fresh and unaffected by the temperature of re-entry. A number of flakes and chips, mostly of highly oxidized steel, which were probably from the structure of the satellite, were recovered. Found also was an incomplete assembly of control rods and tubes, about a metre long, and one section of a stovepipe-shaped tubing roughly measuring 50 cm by 25 cm.

The rod-and-tube assembly, which fell on the frozen surface of the Thelon River, northeast of Great Slave Lake, was found in February by men wintering in the area. The stovepipe-shaped tube, spotted on the ice at the east end of Great Slave Lake, was the only piece of debris located that was not radioactive. It is being loaned by the AECB to the National Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa for display.

Some 3,000 tiny particles were detected and removed from towns and settlements, roads and railroads, camps and

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Discovery of satellite remains on Great Slave Lake.

Ninety-three years ago yesterday...
Donald Smith drove the last spike of the Canadian Pacific Railway, completing Canada's first transcontinental railway (see Page 4).

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