

OUTER SPACE CONFERENCE

The Canadian delegation attending the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which opened in Vienna on August 14 and will end on August 27, is led by the Canadian Ambassador to Austria, Mr. J.A. McCordick, and includes senior representatives of the Departments of Energy, Mines and Resources, Transport, Industry, the National Research Council and the Science Secretariat of the Privy Council. Dr. Philip Lapp, of SPAR Aerospace Products of Toronto, and Dr. Balfour W. Currie, Dean of Graduate Studies of the University of Saskatchewan, are also attending the conference and will present papers entitled "Benefits to Canadian Industry through Participation in Space Activities" and "Space Activities in Canadian Universities". A senior member of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Mr. Spencer Moore, International Liaison Officer, is adviser to the Canadian delegation.

In response to the Federal Government's invitation to the provinces to send observers as part of the Canadian delegation, Quebec sent two experts in the field of Education and Communications, and Ontario sent a representative of the Department of Education to the conference.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The conference plans to:

(1) Examine the practical benefits to be derived from space research and exploration on the basis of technical and scientific achievements, and the extent to which non-space powers, especially the developing countries, may benefit, particularly in terms of education and development.

(2) Study the opportunities available to non-space powers for international co-operation in space activities, allowing for the extent to which the United Nations may take part.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, U Thant, commended the General Assembly's decision in 1966 to hold the conference as "a major step toward bridging the ever-widening gap between the space powers and the non-space powers, particularly the developing countries", and he expressed the hope that "the United Nations will be able to ensure that the exploration and use of outer space shall be a growing point of co-operation rather than a new area of conflict and mistrust."

COLOMBO AIRPORT OPENED

Senator John B. Aird represented the Prime Minister at the official opening of Ceylon's Katunayake Airport on August 5.

The airport, which cost \$8 million, is the largest project in Ceylon to be financed under Canada's international development assistance programme. It involved construction of a two-mile long runway, completed in 1965, which can handle the largest modern jets, and a modern 800,000-square foot airport terminal which was completed this year.

Katunayake Airport, situated just outside the

capital, Colombo, is considered a project of major importance by the Ceylonese Government, which hopes it will help build the tourist industry and contribute to the economic development of the country.

SELF-GOVERNING HOSPITAL PATIENTS

A novel programme of therapy is proving its value at the Alberta Hospital, Ponoka, whose patients are being allowed considerable latitude in expressing opinions and making suggestions and decisions regarding hospital regulations that concern them and their activities. "Patient government" as the programme is called, was inaugurated to bring patients closer to the outside world, to ward off alienation from their surroundings and treatment and to ease the ennui that frequently attends life in a large institution.

A person in hospital suffering from certain types of mental disorder may for various reasons show lassitude, loss of sense of individuality, an apparent inability to plan for the future and a loss of interest in his or her surroundings and things in general. The programme of patient involvement is adapted to the treatment of such persons. Changed now is the old approach attitude that "these people are not capable of producing anything significant in the manner of healthy persons, therefore, let us just accept whatever they give".

The new approach is to expect of the patient everything of which he is capable, without being too demanding. It is felt that over-protectiveness fosters infantilism and that asking too little deprives the patient of the therapy of challenge. The staff at Alberta Hospital is told: "Don't expect too little - ask for enough."

PATIENTS' COUNCIL

The programme is centred in the Alberta Hospital Patients' Council, an administrative body elected from among the patients and charged with a measure of self-government. The Council is made up of representatives from each ward and its executive is elected from among its own ranks. It meets regularly to consider possible suggestions to authorities regarding conditions and arrangements in the hospital and to consider various projects in which the patients involve themselves.

PROJECTS

The essence of the success of the programme is that the activities and projects undertaken by the patients are not idle, inconsequential, pastimes but meaningful contributions to those around them. When a park that had existed on the hospital grounds had to give way for new construction, the patients took it on themselves to construct a new centennial park. Other patients operate the hospital's coffee shop, which is showing a substantial profit.

The money earned accrues to the patients doing the work, but a small assessment is made in the same manner as society levies taxes. The disbursement of money received by the Council is decided at general meetings by majority vote.