

New medical accelerator installed in London, Ontario cancer clinic

The first Canadian-built therapeutic linear accelerator for the treatment of cancer was installed recently at the Ontario Cancer Foundation's clinic in Victoria Hospital, London.

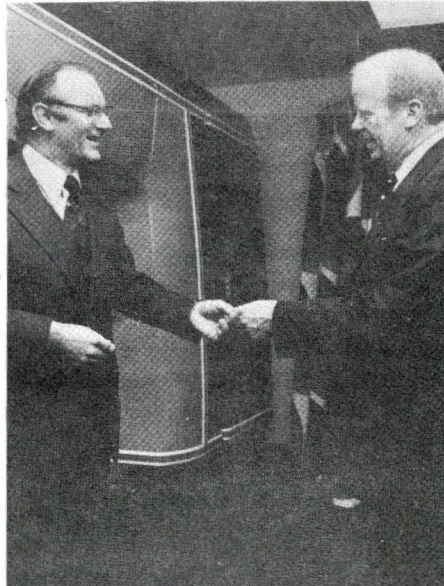
The unit, known as a Therac 6, is valued at \$200,000 and was built by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) Commercial Products. Keys for the equipment were turned over to Judge J.R.H. Kirkpatrick, chairman of the Foundation, by J.M. Beddoes, vice-president, Commercial Products, in a ceremony at the clinic.

The Therac 6 is the first of a family of accelerators that has been designed as a result of a co-operative program between AECL and CGR-MeV of France. Both organizations have extensive experience in the development and manufacture of accelerators and radiation therapy equipment and have pooled their expertise to produce a new series of cancer therapy machines.

The Therac 6 Linear Accelerator has 20 times the output of the first commercial cobalt-60 unit which was installed in London 24 years ago last November. Accelerators produce an intense beam of radiation by electronic means, whereas cobalt therapy units use gamma radiation from reactor-produced radioactive material.

Although Cobalt-60 teletherapy units are still considered to be the "work-horses" of cancer therapy clinics, a

number of radiotherapists prefer linear accelerators because the beams from these machines are more sharply defined, are capable of greater penetration and the higher output makes possible the treatment of more patients daily.



John Beddoes, vice president of AECL's Commercial Products (left) gives the keys of the first Canadian-built therapeutic accelerator to Judge J.R.H. Kirkpatrick, chairman of the Ontario Cancer Foundation clinic at Victoria Hospital, London, where it was recently installed.

Canada and the United States remove meat quotas

Effective January 1, quotas on beef and veal were removed by the United States and Canada. Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan noted that this action was a direct result of his meeting in Washington on December 19, 1975, with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz. It clears the way for restoration of normal trade in meat. Trade in live animals was restored last August.

"During our meeting, Mr. Butz pointed out that the U.S. have a meat import law in their statutes and they must operate under it," Mr. Whelan said.

"Taking that into account, I advised Mr. Butz that Canada would need to provide similar safeguards to protect against any unusual or excessive meat

flow into this country. We have reached agreement in this context and are very satisfied with the arrangement."

In general, as of January 1, exports and imports of beef and veal will be under open general licence and individual export and import permits will not be required.

Trade will continue to be monitored and should any unusual circumstances arise there will be consultation between the two countries.

Mr. Whelan also noted the agreement opened the way for discussions with Australia and New Zealand.

"These two countries are significant exporters of beef to Canada. We have already advised both countries that we want to make similar arrangements with them to ensure orderly marketing," said the Minister.

McGill/Arctic Institute link nearing dissolution

The long-standing relation between the McGill University, Montreal, and the Arctic Institute of North America appears to be coming to an end.

The University has asked the Institute to move from Purvis Hall as soon as it is convenient, terminating a connection which began with the founding of the research-oriented organization in 1945.

An announcement by the Institute that it intended to move its head office and library from the McGill campus to the University of Calgary, Alberta, was followed by a series of recent proposals whereby McGill was asked to provide the Institute with the space it now occupies, cost-free, together with financial assistance and help in establishing a computerized technical and scientific information service. Financial help was described as an annual monetary grant by McGill and the use of the University as an intermediary between the Quebec government and the Institute in order to obtain a subsidy from the public purse.

McGill viewed the Institute's decision to transfer the library to Calgary as one of the main reasons for making a complete break. The arrangements concerning financing and accommodation were provisional on the library remaining in Purvis Hall, and the University now considers them as having lapsed.

Duplicate library

McGill is hopeful that measures can be worked out so that duplicate library material can remain there.

It is understood that the Centre for Northern Studies and Research requires additional room, and would occupy the space vacated by the Institute. The Centre would be responsible for the duplicate library material and make it available to users as before.

The Institute, established in 1945 to encourage and support scientific research relating to the polar regions, has always been located on the McGill campus. Numerous University staff members have served on its board of governors and technical committees, and McGill professors and students have served on expeditions sponsored by the Institute.