

## SMALLPOX VACCINATION POLICY

In commenting on press reports indicating that routine smallpox vaccination would no longer be required in early childhood, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. John Munro pointed out that, while this type of vaccination was, for the most part, a safe procedure, there were rare occasions when it could lead to serious complications such as generalized infection with the vaccine virus, inflammation of the brain, and even death.

While Canada has had no smallpox for over 20 years, except for one imported case in 1962, there have been one or two deaths a year attributed to complications arising from vaccination procedures.

Since the provincial health departments delineate their own routine vaccination programs, his Department, he said, would place this whole matter on the agenda of its Advisory Committee on Epidemiology. The Committee, including all provincial epidemiologists, will meet in November.

Mr. Munro also made clear that the Federal Government did not propose at present to make any changes in its existing procedures for persons entering Canada from countries where smallpox is prevalent or even occurs from time to time. Travellers would still be required to show evidence of recent vaccination.

## ATOM PROGRESS SHOWN IN GENEVA

A conspectus of the Canadian nuclear program was provided by the Atoms for Development exhibition held in Geneva from September 6 to 16. The exhibition, part of the Fourth United Nations International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, was attended by some 2,000 delegates from more than 60 countries.

The Canadian display, occupying 5,000 square feet of space, featured the following aspects of the nation's nuclear program: nuclear-power stations of Canadian design at home and abroad; fuel for Canada's power reactors, research reactors and other facilities; the manufacturing capabilities of Canadian industry; international co-operation; and various applications of radioisotopes in medicine, industry and agriculture.

This year's successful "start-up" and operation of Ontario Hydro's Pickering generating station near Toronto was featured in the nuclear-power section. A large scale model of this 2-million kilowatt station illustrated the working principles of the plant, where the first of four units was brought into operation in February and reached full power in May.

The exhibit also depicted the Gentilly station in Quebec, built by AECL in co-operation with Hydro-Quebec, the Bruce Nuclear Power Development on Lake Huron, the KANUPP station built in Pakistan by Canadian General Electric Company Limited, and

India's Rajasthan Atomic Power Project, which has two reactors of Canadian design.

Other exhibits included: a display of colour photographs illustrating the growth of nuclear power; a large model of the *Slowpoke* reactor, which can be operated for long periods without skilled operators and produces radioisotopes and analyses of use to university, hospital and industrial laboratories; the *Triumf* accelerator and associated laboratories under construction at the University of British Columbia, which will produce neutrons to be used in materials studies, production of radioisotopes and analysis of metallurgical and other specimens for industry and research; research and development facilities operated by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited; a working model depicting the use of gamma rays from cobalt-60 to sterilize medical products and graphic panels; and Canadian studies of disease-carrying insects in Venezuela and Argentina and of black flies in northern Ontario, with the aid of radioisotopes.



*The final concert at Ontario Place of the 13-week season by the National Ballet of Canada elicited an expression of thanks from Mr. Allan Grossman, Ontario Minister of Trade and Development, who is seen presenting a commemorative plaque to Celia Franca, artistic director of the company.*

*The National Ballet, which attracted an estimated 45,000 people to Ontario Place, is now on tour across Ontario, to such centres as Kirkland Lake, Sudbury, Windsor, Kingston, Belleville, London, Orillia and Hamilton.*