

MONTREAL TEAM DEVELOPS CANCER TEST

A simple test for abdominal cancer, developed by researchers from Montreal, is seen as an advance in the detection of this disease. Results of a two-year study of the test's effectiveness were recently published in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, in an article by Dr. A.B. Miles, assistant executive director of the National Cancer Institute. Medical investigators in three United States centres and Montreal, Kingston, Ontario, and Edmonton, Alberta, tried it on a total of 862 patients. Their findings show that though the test is not yet ready for wide use, it can be of some effectiveness in detecting intestinal and rectal cancer.

The test was developed five years ago by Montreal General Hospital doctors Phil Gold and Samuel Freedman, who found an antigen – a chemical that alerts the body's defence mechanisms – in the blood of patients with tumors of the lower intestinal tract.

Such cancers are the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States – largely because the disease most often remains undetected until it reaches an incurable stage. If the Gold-Freedman test can be perfected, it promises to help save the lives of thousands of cancer victims each year.

The investigation results published recently show that the complex blood test can be performed accurately. Positive tests were recorded for two-thirds of 126 patients diagnosed as having cancer of the rectum and large intestine.

Also confirmed by the findings is the fact that the Gold-Freedman test doesn't detect just cancers of the intestine and rectum, but is also revealing other bodily disorders. The test may thus have a wider value than originally thought, since it can act as a warning signal for patients who seem healthy, but may later develop cancer symptoms.

The investigators also believe that medical data of major importance may result from the findings of the study, and that the test methods will have an impact on other work in the detection of cancer.

POWER GIANT FOR QUEBEC

The Government of Canada has agreed to make loan funds available to assist in the financing of a 600,000-kilowatt nuclear-power station that the Quebec Hydro-Electric Commission proposes to build at Gentilly, on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River near Trois-Rivières.

Through the Crown company, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, the Federal Government will provide up to 50 per cent of the financing for the station, the cost of which is estimated at \$300 million. The loan will be repaid, with interest, over a 25-year period from the date the plant is declared in operation. The target is to have the station ready for full power operation early in 1979.

As a necessary preliminary to a final commitment, Hydro-Quebec has engaged AECL to do a conceptual design of the station and, in concert with Canatom Limited, a Montreal consulting engineering firm, to assemble a total project schedule. It is expected that these will be completed and the station committed before the end of this year.

The location chosen for the plant, tentatively named Gentilly 2, is near that of the prototype Gentilly nuclear-power station, an experimental unit that was brought into operation in November 1970, produced its first power in April 1971 and reached full power of 250,000 kilowatts in May of this year.

LOOKING AHEAD

Hydro-Quebec foresees a need for additional thermal generating capacity at the turn of the decade, before the initial James Bay hydro-electric plants are in operation, and studies have indicated that a nuclear plant of the proven CANDU design would help meet the need, at costs competitive with those of power from fossil-fuelled plants. Looking further ahead, Hydro-Quebec expects an increasing commitment to nuclear power, starting around 1985. The construction and operation of a full-scale commercial station, in the interim, is seen as providing the utility and Canadian industry with valuable additional experience preparatory to the launching of a major nuclear power program in Quebec in the mid-to late-1980s.

In agreeing to assist in the financing of Quebec's first commercial nuclear-power station, the Federal Government is observing the same principle of co-operation that was applied when it undertook to participate in the financing of Ontario's first commercial nuclear plant, at Pickering. Through AECL, the Government of Canada underwrote 35 per cent of the capital cost of the first two units of the four-unit Pickering station. The amount involved was about \$150 million, about the same as the loan now offered to Hydro-Quebec.

CANADA AND THE EEC

Canadian businessmen should not write off the European Economic Community but, rather, apply the necessary interest and sales drive to establish it as a major and expanding market for Canadian exports, the European representative of Canadian National told the Canadian Chamber of Commerce recently. Speaking to a session of the Chamber's annual meeting, W.G. Buchanan, general manager of CN's European organization, said that Canadian businessmen should regard the entry of Britain into the European Common Market as "an opportunity to increase and diversify, rather than reduce, our trade with Britain and the EEC itself".

"I think it is fair to say that while most Canadian businessmen know about the Community and its potential in a general way, their interest in the