Canada Weekly

Volume 7, No. 44

October 31, 1979

Ottawa, Canada

Twelve-years ago this week...
Expo '67, the world exhibition in Montreal closed after a run of 185 days; attendance totalled 50,306,648.

Research and development major part of NRC's work last year

The National Research Council gave high priority to industrial research and development last year, when it committed $21.1 million to the support of 284 projects in 209 companies.

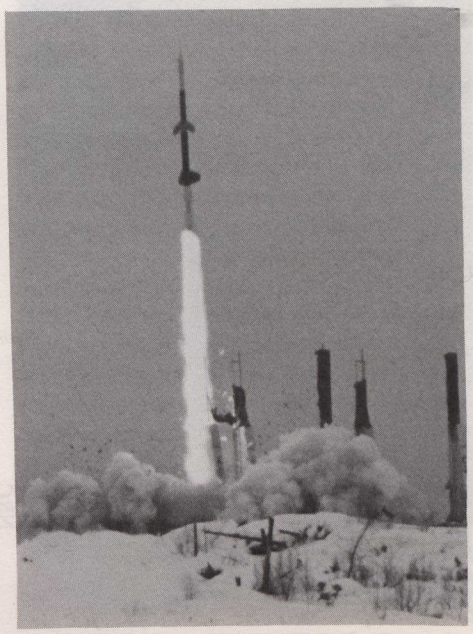
According to the *Report of the President 1978-1979*, the Council, among its other activities:

- made significant progress in the discovery and acquisition of new knowledge, notably in astrophysics, molecular biology, plant science, physical sciences and engineering techniques;
- developed a new and highly convenient portable meter for determining the efficiency of oil and gas burning furnaces which has been licensed for commercial production;
- continued its program of development and demonstration of solar and wind energy through industrial contracts, including the rebuilding of the 230-kW wind turbine on the Magdalen Islands in Quebec, which had been destroyed in an operational accident;
- made significant progress in advancing field peas as a viable legume protein crop in the prairie provinces;
- made significant advances in measurement and development of primary physical standards, notably for standards of time and length measurement;
- continued work on improved aircraft safety and technical aspects of air accident investigations;
- carried out in collaboration with a number of institutions in the United States a highly successful scientific study of upper atmosphere and ionosphere phenomena with rocket-launched probes at Red Lake, Ontario, during the February 1979 solar eclipse.

Major projects

Listed under major projects was the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope, which opened September 1979. (See *Canada Weekly* issue dated October 24, P. 4.) The telescope, jointly sponsored by the National Research Council, le Centre national de la recherche scientifique of France and the University of Hawaii was constructed on the summit of Mauna Kea, one of the best observation sites in the world for optical astronomy.

The Remote Manipulator System – an "arm in space" – for the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration Space Shuttle is being developed and constructed by a Canadian industry consortium under contract to the NRC. The mechanical arm, more than 15 m long, now scheduled for delivery in 1980, will enable astronauts to manipulate objects in space and could be used to place satellites into orbit as well as for repairing a malfunctioning satellite or transporting it back to earth. Its other possibilities include crew rescue and the grasp of special



NRC

During the solar eclipse in February 1979, NRC's Space Research Facilities Branch co-ordinated a major Canada-U.S. rocket launching program. In a joint effort with the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), it launched 35 instrument-carrying rockets from a temporary facility established near Red Lake, Ontario, to handle the exercise.