

AWARD TO NRC INVENTOR

Mr. U.V. Helava, of the photogrammetric research section, Division of Applied Physics, National Research Council of Canada, was recently presented with the Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation Award by the American Society of Photogrammetry. The purpose of the Award — a silver plaque mounted on a wood panel — is to stimulate the development of the art of aerial photogrammetry in the United States.

Mr. Helava, a graduate of the Finnish Institute of Technology and a 1953 National Research Council postdoctorate fellow, is the inventor of the *analytical plotter* — a revolutionary instrument that ushers in a new era in map-making, surveying and satellite photography.

The plotter substitutes mathematical projection for the mechanical projection on which all other plotters rely. The instrument can also be used to plot maps and make measurements where no other plotter could be successfully employed owing to distortions and other errors impossible to compensate for by conventional means. Since such distortions occur, for instance, on weather-satellite photographs, the plotter will be of particular use in space exploration.

ELECTRIC POWER

Net generation of electric energy by plants that generate a minimum of approximately 10,000,000 kilowatt hours a year increased 9.8 per cent in April to 10,842,688,000 kwh from 9,876,611,000 in April last year. Imports declined in the month to 182,453,000 kwh from 191,862,000 a year earlier, while exports rose to 343,625,000 from 298,297,000. The amount of electric energy made available for primary purposes climbed 12.1 per cent in the month, to 10,493,870,000 kwh from 9,359,818,000, while the amount used in electric boilers dropped sharply (54.3 per cent), to 187,646,000 kwh from 410,358,000.

Generation of electric energy in the January-April period advanced 10.3 per cent, to 44,735,979,000 kwh from 40,547,016,000 in the corresponding period of 1963. Imports were down in the period, to 778,534,000 kwh from 951,063,000, while exports were up to 1,426,676,000 kwh from 1,295,032,000. The amount of energy made available for primary purposes in the four months increased 12.0 per cent to 43,258,852,000 kwh from 38,618,139,000, while the amount used in electric boilers declined significantly (47.7 per cent), to 828,985,000 kwh from 1,584,908,000.

TO DISCUSS SONIC BOOM

The possible effects of sonic boom on buildings is to be discussed at a symposium that will form part of the annual meeting of the American Society for Testing and Materials in Chicago on June 25. In view of the planning of supersonic airliners now in progress in Europe and America, the subject of

the symposium is a topical one. Sponsored by the Society's Committee E6, which deals with methods of testing building constructions, and the Administrative Committee on Simulated Service Testing, the symposium will be chaired by W.R. Schriever of the National Research Council's Division of Building Research. His colleague H.N.C. Lyster of NRC's National Aeronautical Establishment will present the opening paper, entitled *The Nature of the Sonic Boom*. W.A. Ramsay, Chief Architect of Air Services, Department of Transport, will describe the damage done in 1959 to the new Uplands Terminal Building in Ottawa by a jet fighter which accidentally exceeded the speed of sound during a demonstration flight.

IRON ORE

Producers' shipments of iron ore in Canada nearly doubled in April, rising to 2,376,972 tons from 1,235,253 in April last year. This brought shipments in the January-April period to 5,392,443 tons, greater by 52.7 per cent than the corresponding 1963 total of 3,530,776 tons. Export shipments of iron ore more than doubled in April, increasing to 2,098,226 tons from 987,400 a year earlier, boosting the January-April total 67.0 per cent to 4,420,536 tons from 2,644,252 a year ago. Ore shipped to Canadian consumers rose 12.5 per cent in the month, to 278,746 tons from 247,853, and 9.6 per cent in the four months, to 971,097 tons from 886,524. Producers' stocks were substantially (43.8 per cent) larger at the end of April this year, compared to those for last year, at 5,501,828 tons versus 3,824,993.

April shipments of iron ore were larger than a year earlier from all producing regions except British Columbia. The month's totals were: Newfoundland, 705,971 tons (28,081 in April 1963); Quebec, 1,079,208 (732,120); Ontario, 465,184 (335,888); and British Columbia, 126,609 (139,164).

B.C. OFFSHORE MINERAL RIGHTS

The question of West Coast offshore mineral rights was discussed recently in Ottawa by Mr. Arthur Laing, the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources for Canada, and Mr. Donald Brothers, the Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources for British Columbia. At stake was the administration of some 14,000,000 acres of exploration lands comprising the sea bed of the continental shelf off the shores of the mainland and Vancouver Island. The companies now engaged in the search for submarine minerals are operating under overlapping permits from both governments.

The two ministers emphasized that both governments wished to avoid any delay in exploration. After a review of the possibility of administrative arrangements and of their respective legal positions, Mr. Laing and Mr. Brothers agreed that the only way the matter could be reconciled was by a reference to the Supreme Court of Canada.