

#### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

AECL continued its collaboration with such international organizations as the European Nuclear Energy Agency, Euratom and the International Atomic Energy Agency through participation in advisory panels, symposia and conferences and through the secondment of staff members. Two AECL staff members joined the Secretariat of the IAEA for two-year postings, one in the Division of Scientific and Technical Information and the other in the Division of Safeguards and Inspection.

Dr. W.B. Lewis, Senior Vice-President, Science, AECL, continued to serve on the Scientific Advisory Committee of the International Atomic Energy Agency and also on the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

A fruitful international conference on ion penetration and atomic collision studies was held at Chalk River in September 1967. Representatives from Canadian universities and industry and a number of visitors from other countries attended.

Some 100 scientists from 16 countries were attached to AECL sites for varying periods.

#### HOVERCRAFT FOR RESCUE WORK

The first air-cushion vehicle in the world designed especially for search-and-rescue operations was delivered recently to the Department of Transport in Vancouver.

The *Hovercraft* SRN-5, was built in England at a cost of \$350,000 by British Hovercraft Corporation, with modifications specified by the Department of Transport. Power is provided by a Rolls-Royce Bristol Siddeley *Gnome* gas-turbine engine.

The vehicle, which is equipped with special features for its role in search-and-rescue operations with the Canadian Coast Guard, will be based in the Vancouver area. Before it enters regular service, however, it will be tested extensively to determine its full capabilities and to enable operating crews to be trained. These tests also will help the Department of Transport to develop regulations and standards for the operation of air-cushion vehicles in Canada.

Canadian participation in the development of this new type of transportation is comparatively recent, although it has been used for some time to ferry passengers in Britain.

Interest in air-cushion vehicles has grown in Canada since Expo 67, where a *Hovercraft* was used to transport passengers across water. A Vancouver company, Pacific Hovercraft Limited, was recently granted a licence to operate a commercial air-cushion vehicle linking Vancouver with Victoria and Nanaimo. (See *Canadian Weekly Bulletin*, No. 23, P. 5.)

While the full scope of the vehicle's search-and-rescue abilities cannot be determined until tests are complete, craft of similar type and size can carry 20 passengers or two tons of freight at 60 knots. It is 38 feet long and 23 feet wide and, as fitted for Canadian Coast Guard work, will have side decks from which the crew can work in the course of search and rescue or other Coast Guard operations which require outside platform space.

In the Coast Guard service the craft will be equipped for fire fighting, fitted with pumps for assisting damaged vessels and will have fenders, scramble-nets and two 21-man inflatable life rafts for use in emergencies on water. The vehicle will be fitted with radar and other navigation and communications equipment of the latest type.

#### INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION MEET

The Canadian delegation which attended the thirty-first session of the International Conference on Public Education in Geneva from July 1 to 10, held under the joint auspices of UNESCO and the International Bureau of Education (IBE), was headed by Dr. G.N. Pery, Deputy Minister of Education for British Columbia, and included Dr. T.C. Byrne, Deputy Minister of Education for Alberta, Mr. Wesley H. Janzen of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, Mr. Jean-Gilles Jutras of ACELF (Association Canadienne des Educateurs de Langue Française), and as Special Adviser (political matters) to the Chairman of the delegation Mr. Jean-Louis Delisle, Permanent Representative of Canada at the Office of the United Nations in Geneva.

As usual with international conferences of this type, the Council of Ministers of Education for the Provinces was asked to suggest the names of persons who would join the delegation as representatives of the provinces.

The agenda for this year's conference included the subject of education for international understanding as an integral part of school curricula. Delegates also considered the study of environment, and reviewed reports by Ministers of Education of participating countries on developments in education within their countries during the year 1967-68.

#### COMPUTER FOR PAKISTAN

Canada has approved a \$450,000-grant to purchase and install a computer system at the Central Statistical Office in Karachi, Pakistan. The Centre supplies a full range of analysis and reporting services for all departments of the Pakistan Government.

In announcing the grant, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, said that the funds would be allotted from Canada's 1967-68 grant programme for Pakistan.

The Karachi office's present equipment is unable to cope with the volume of complexity of current or future statistical requirements. Under the new arrangement, an IBM 360 computer will be provided. Pakistani authorities have already instituted training schemes for programming and systems-design personnel and are preparing for installation of the unit. Full servicing facilities are available in Pakistan.

In the 1967-68 programme, Canada provided \$18 million in loans to Pakistan covering a nuclear power-plant project and other capital assistance, industrial parts and commodity aid, as well as \$10.5 million in grant aid.