

CANADA-CZECHOSLOVAKIA CLAIMS

The Department of External Affairs has announced that the second round of the Canada-Czechoslovakia claims negotiations were held at Ottawa from November 15 to 23. In these discussions the Canadian Government is trying to obtain compensation for property of Canadian citizens that has been nationalized, confiscated or otherwise taken by the Government of Czechoslovakia. It is expected that a third round will be held in Prague next spring.

Persons who were Canadian citizens at the time their property was taken by Czechoslovakia and who have not already advised the Claims Section of the Department of External Affairs at Ottawa of their claims are urged to do so immediately in order that their claims may be taken into account during the current negotiations. Unless notice of such claims has been received by the Department prior to the signing of any settlement with the Czechoslovak Government, they may not be eligible for compensation.

While some progress has been made in the negotiations it is not yet possible to forecast when a settlement will be reached.

HIGH-POWER LASER MARKETED

Canada's first manufacturer to concentrate exclusively on the design and production of lasers has announced the successful development of the first high-energy plasma laser to be marketed as a standard product.

Lumonics Research Limited, an Ottawa firm, has successfully converted breakthrough technology developed at the Defence Research Establishment, Valcartier, Quebec, into the first of a series of high-power laser products. This product was demonstrated at the Electro-Optics Industry trade show in the New York Coliseum in October.

Lumonics Research was formed 11 months ago to compete for a licence for manufacturing and sales rights to the Transversely Excited Atmospheric (TEA) laser inventions that were announced in January 1970. Licences were granted to Lumonics and Gen-Tec (1969) Inc. of Quebec City in July 1970, to produce and market TEA gas lasers by Canadian Patents and Developments Limited, a subsidiary of the National Research Council, responsible for the licencing of Government-owned inventions.

The company started operations as a privately financed public company, and, as Lumonics product-development proceeded, significant and continuing financial assistance was introduced by NRC (\$70,000) under its Industrial Research and Assistance Program, for the Advancement of Industrial Technology.

The initial series of TEA laser products are called plasma lasers owing to their ability to vaporize instantly and known material and thereby create a "plasma". These lasers are intended primarily as research tools for use by physicists in plasma-generation and heating, as well as spectroscopy.

INTERNATIONAL INTEREST

This is a field of growing international interest as reflected by the recent recommendation of an *ad hoc* committee of the National Research Council that Canada embark on a multi-million-dollar program involving the development and utilization of plasma technology. Since Lumonics plasma lasers deliver much higher energy pulses than any other moderately-priced commercially-available laser, company officials expect a favourable market-reception in this field. Future TEA laser products will have broader manufacturing process applications and even wider potential markets.

The TEA laser has attracted international attention because of its simplicity, low cost and very high power output, despite its small size. It is capable of producing pulses of radiation of 100 times greater power than any other existing gas laser.

Partly as a result of publicity relating to the development and licensing of the TEA laser, Lumonics was able to obtain a substantial contract from a large United States corporation for a custom-designed, high-energy TEA laser.

TEXTILE SHOW SUCCESSFUL

About \$6-million worth of orders were received by ten Canadian textile firms that exhibited at the recent Interstoff show in Frankfurt, Germany. The Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, in making the announcement, said that the figure of \$6 million was almost double that of Canadian sales at the previous Interstoff.

Company officials estimate that orders of more than \$12 million can be expected as a direct result of the show, in which the Department sponsored the Canadian exhibit.

More than 20,000 visitors saw what 640 exhibitors from all parts of the world had to offer in the way of fabrics and designs. New synthetic fabrics, developed to meet the demand of foreign buyers, many of them featuring unique Canadian designs, found ready buyers. Innovations to provide longer wear and easier care in standard fabrics, such as cotton and wool, also attracted purchasers.

This is the third consecutive year in which the Department has sponsored an exhibit in Interstoff, the largest international textile exhibition in the world.