

Geophysicist honoured for earth-shattering theory

A lifetime spent piecing together the earth's jigsaw puzzle of shifting continents has recently won Ontario Science Centre Director-General J. Tuzo Wilson three awards of national and international distinction. This year's Vetlesen Gold Medal, the premier award in the earth sciences, which carries with it a prize of \$50,000, was conferred by New York's Columbia University in April; the Gold Medal of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, an occasional honour reserved for recognition of outstanding achievement was presented to him in June; and the American Tentative Society chose Wilson in July as one of six recipients of its first \$2,500 awards for original scientific thinking.

Dr. Wilson, a 70-year-old native of Ottawa, is also Canada's chief delegate to the Science Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. For 28 years, Wilson was a professor of geophysics at the University of Toronto, latterly serving as principal of the University's Erindale College. He also headed the Canadian mission which participated in the United Nations Geophysical Year.

In announcing the Vetlesen Prize, the Columbia University jury described Wilson as an innovator who had advanced the earth sciences as dramatically as Copernicus and Galileo advanced the science of astronomy. Wilson's revolutionary theory, which he put forward less than 20 years ago, is that the earth's crust is composed of a number of rock plates in constant motion. It is this movement which produces earthquakes, volcanoes, mountain formations and other upheavals. His theory, known as plate tectonics, explains and confirms the continental-drift theory initially proposed in 1912, but generally dismissed. Europe and North America, he says, were linked 100 million years ago and Africa and South America were one continent. Until Wilson's time, geologists regarded the earth as relatively static. His work has made geology textbooks published as recently as a dozen years ago seem obsolete.

Wilson developed his theory after the Second World War to interpret the face of the earth. He produced the first glacial map of Canada showing the geological features left by the last Ice Age. In the process, Wilson became the second Canadian to fly over the North Pole. As an



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Dr. Wilson looks at a precipitation map of Canada in the Ontario Science Centre. Rods indicate the rainfall.

explorer, Wilson also made the first ascent of Mount Hague, a peak of over 3,657 m in the U.S. state of Montana.

Advocates zero growth

Wilson is now in the vanguard of yet another scientific revolution. In his latest books and lectures, he points out that the world has come to an end of a remarkable spurt of growth fed by cheap and abundant energy. Now that energy sources are becoming depleted, the world must return to a stable society, content to maintain a static economy and zero population growth. We have come to regard growth as normal, he says, but the history of the world shows that our economic and industrial expansion has been very abnormal indeed, as has our population growth. Stresses Wilson, we owe it to our children to return to stability.

New position, diplomatic appointments named for External Affairs

Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson recently announced the creation of two new positions in his Department, one of which will contribute to the more effective management of the security and intelligence aspects of Canada's international relations. Eldon Pattison Black, formerly Assistant Deputy Minister (Policy) for National Defence,

has been named Deputy Under-Secretary for Security and Intelligence. Mr. Black, who joined the External Affairs Department in 1949, has served in Moscow, Stockholm, Brussels and Paris, and was also Director-General of the Bureau of European Affairs. He was seconded to the National Defence Department in 1975.

The other new post, Co-ordinator for Development Policy, is aimed at a more effective policy towards developing countries. Lawrence A.H. Smith, who is being recalled from his Washington post as Minister responsible for Economic Affairs with the U.S., has been assigned to the new position.

Eight diplomatic appointments have also been made: Raymond Chrétien, nephew of the Finance Minister, will become Ambassador to Zaire, replacing William M. Wood, who is going to Costa Rica. Mr. Chrétien, who joined the Department in 1966, served most recently as Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy in Paris;

Eric Bergbusch will become High Commissioner in Tanzania and concurrently to the Seychelles and Mauritius. He replaces Robert McLaren, who is returning to Ottawa. Mr. Bergbusch, who has been with the Department since 1960, has served in Tel Aviv and with the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in Geneva;

Derek Burney, who has been chief spokesman for Mr. Jamieson and Press Officer for the Department since 1976, has been named Ambassador to the Republic of Korea. He is a former Director of the Pacific Division;

Gerald Shannon, who is being moved from Korea to Washington to replace Mr. Smith, joined the Department in 1963. He has served in Washington, Belgrade and as Ambassador to the Republic of Korea;

Glen Buick, Chief Press Officer under former Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan MacEachen, goes to Chile as Ambassador. He has been Director of the Consular Policy Division since 1976. He replaces André Potvin, who becomes Consul General in Marseille;

J. Ross Francis, Press Officer when Mitchell Sharp was Secretary of State for External Affairs and, since 1976, Director of the Political Affairs Division, becomes High Commissioner in Malaysia, replacing retiring John Dougan;

Gilles Duguay becomes Ambassador to Cameroun, replacing Claude Chatillon.