

be several years before agreement could be reached on such a protocol, the diplomatic conference urged all States in the meantime "to control their emissions of CFCs by any means at their disposal".

Mrs. Blais-Grenier stated that "Canada has taken an active role in research, monitoring and regulatory measures to protect the ozone layer. Canada has operated the World Ozone Data Centre for the past 25 years. A Canadian remote sensing instrument, the Brewer Spectrophotometer is now under commercial manufacture and being sold internationally to make ground-based measurements of the ozone layer. Regulations under the Environmental Contaminants Act to ban the use of CFCs in hairsprays, anti-perspirants and deodorants have reduced chlorofluorocarbon use in Canada by 45 percent."

Chlorofluorocarbons, which are non-toxic gases with unique physical properties, are used to propel aerosol sprays, manufacture foam plastics, and operate refrigerators and air conditioners. While these gases are not harmful at the earth's surface, they diffuse into the stratosphere where they are broken down into their constituent elements by intense ultraviolet radiation.

The chlorine which is thus released depletes the ozone layer and permits increased amounts of ultraviolet radiation to reach the earth's surface. Current chemical models of the stratosphere indicate that even modest growth in CFC use could result in substantial depletion of the ozone layer within 50 to 75 years. The resulting exposure to ultraviolet radiation would cause increased incidence of skin cancer, affect the human body's immunological response and decrease production of some of the world's most important food crops, including wheat, rice, corn and soybeans.

For further information, see attached backgrounder.