

Canadians at NASA planning moon missions

■ A University of Toronto professor has been appointed head of the Geophysics Branch of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Manned Space Centre in Houston.

Dr. David W. Strangway, who did extensive research at the U. of T. on samples of lunar rock brought to earth from the two Apollo landings, will be responsible for planning geophysical aspects of moon missions.

Dr. Strangway will help to determine the experiments U.S. astronauts will perform on the moon. He will also work with other NASA branches in deciding what area of the moon will be explored during lunar landings.

"We will also study lunar samples here and review outside opinions and findings. We hope to build this up as the real science part of lunar exploration."

Assisting Dr. Strangway in Houston will be three graduate students from the Geophysics Department at the U. of T. They will work with Lunar Science

Institute, a research organization funded by NASA and involving 30 U.S. universities and Toronto.

Among their projects will be work on the magnetic fields of lunar rock, and the planning of a system to probe electronically the depth of the moon's crust to determine its composition.

"This is planned for Apollo XVII during which we hope to penetrate subsurface layers of the moon," Dr. Strangway said. "We want to see if there is the chance of any water." To date, moon samples have shown no trace of water. 

"The United States is a resilient society"

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau in a recent interview with British television (for the BBC program Panorama) answered questions on a wide range of subjects, including the state of American society seen from the vantage point of a neighbor. The following excerpts, although not included in the broadcast version, are taken from the transcript of the interview:

Q: Prime Minister, when talking about your relations with the United States, are you at all concerned that the apparent fragmentation, the disruption of society which appears to be taking place now is something which may overflow and engulf Canada?

A: I think it's a danger. I think that it's a danger first because of proximity, and what happens there is very close to us. There is a tremendous amount of inter-cultural dependence as you know, mostly coming in from them to us. If you'll look at many of our rioters and our dissatisfied elements, they're using the same slogans, the same issues as the Americans south of the border. They're protesting against the Canadian establishment being servile as they put it to U.S. imperialism, but they don't realize that they are the copies and the docile servants of every slogan which is bandied about Chicago or Los Angeles or New York, and therefore this is a danger. The strong movements in the United States can overflow into Canada.

On the other hand, it's something of an advantage if you want to be positive about it, because we get a fore-warning of what the danger signs are. We can see the areas of crisis developing there and generally we know that they are 5, 10 or 20 years ahead of us technologically and in their urban development and so on, which means

that the crises there arrive 5, 10 or 20 years ahead of the time when they arrive in Canada, and we have this lead time in order to correct it. So, there's good and bad in this proximity.

Am I frightened in any other sense? No, the United States is a pretty tough, resilient society and it's come through a lot of crises in its day. If perchance, the present disturbances were to destroy that society in any lasting sense, I think it would be a great tragedy for the world, because there's no doubt that, with all their evils and fallacies and weaknesses, the American people are a great people dedicated to freedom and dedicated to progress. If they are not as enlightened as many of us like to think we are, that is only because they have gone so much faster and so much further ahead. And, as I say, we benefit from their errors.

Q: A lot of young Americans, of course, feel that nothing can really now change their society, except something very drastic and something very revolutionary. Do you think that's so?

A: I don't think it's so about the Canadian society. I wouldn't think it's true about American society either. I don't see why the desires of the American people won't find their way into legislation, into policy, into good common sense. I think there is a danger, to use your words, but I am not pessimistic about the eventual outcome. 