

Market conditions were generally favorable, supply and demand being in close balance. This condition resulted from the depletion of International Nickel's inventories during the strike and from an increase in industrial demand in the United States and Europe. The United States General Services Administration (GSA) and International Nickel agreed to cancel the contracts between them for delivery of nickel to the United States Government; and GSA undertook to make up the difference between the contract and the market price by supplying the company with nickel-oxide sinter from Nicaro, Cuba. This arrangement was later amended to include 16 million pounds of nickel cathodes. Thus International Nickel had additional stocks for the general market and GSA was able to dispose of surplus nickel and conserve funds. In January 1960 GSA also announced the release of 19 million pounds of cathode nickel from inventory at market price for United States consumption.

**U.S. STRIKE**

The strike in the United States steel industry during the summer and fall of 1959 curtailed the production of stainless and other nickel steels, but the decline in the consumption of nickel in that field was partially offset by an increase in the European demand. In the United States, demand increased in anticipation of the strike. The lifting of the embargo, during the fall of 1958, on the sale of nickel to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has resulted in a demand for Canadian nickel in Russia.

The closure of Freeport Nickel Company's subsidiary, Moa Bay Mining Company, at Moa Bay, Cuba, because of restrictions, will reduce the expected Cuban production. Cuban Nickel Company, at Nicaro, is still in production.

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**Laurier House Dedicated**

Laurier House in Ottawa has become a national historic sites. On July 19, Prime Minister Diefenbaker unveiled a pair of bronze tablets narrating, in English and French, the history of the 82-year old house and marking it officially as a national historic site. Both tablets were prepared by the National Historic Sites Division of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Erected in 1878, Laurier House was bought in 1897 by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who occupied it until his death in 1919. Later, Lady Laurier bequeathed it to Prime Minister Mackenzie King, who lived in it from 1923 to 1950. He in turn bequeathed it to the nation.

Mrs. Ellen Fairclough, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, presided at the ceremony. All Senators and Members of Parliament, as well as a number of Mr. King's personal

friends and former colleagues, had been invited to attend. Mr. Lester B. Pearson, Leader of the Opposition, was a special guest. Prayers were said by Father Louis Guilbault, OMI, curé of Sacré Coeur Parish, where Sir Wilfrid Laurier worshipped, and by Dr. Ian Burnett of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, which Mr. King attended.

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**CANADA-U.S. DEFENCE COMMITTEE**

The third meeting of the Canada--United States Ministerial Committee on Joint Defence was held at Montebello, Quebec, on July 12 and 13, 1960.

The United States was represented at the meeting by Mr. Robert W. Anderson, Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Thomas S. Gates, Jr., Secretary of Defense, and Mr. Livingston T. Merchant, Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs. Secretary of State Christian A. Herter regretted that developments requiring his personal attention obliged him to cancel his plans to come to the meeting.

Canada was represented by Mr. Howard C. Green, Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Donald M. Fleming, Minister of Finance, Mr. George R. Pearkes, Minister of National Defence, and Mr. Raymond J. O'Hurley, Minister of Defence Production.

Ambassador Wigglesworth and Ambassador Heeny, with other senior officials of the two governments, were also in attendance.

**PURPOSE OF CREATION**

The Committee was established, as a result of discussions in July, 1958, in Ottawa between Prime Minister Diefenbaker and President Eisenhower, to consult periodically on all matters affecting the joint defence of Canada and the United States. It reviews not only military questions but also the political and economic aspects of joint-defence problems.

The members of the Committee welcomed the opportunity that this meeting afforded them to have a timely discussion on a broad range of recent international developments of interest and concern to the two governments. They agreed that situations that arise should always be dealt with in a manner which will promote the objectives of the United Nations and contribute to international peace and stability.

By its nature, the Committee's discussions are largely concerned with matters involving the vital security interest of the two countries.

The Committee reviewed the current position concerning negotiations aiming at complete and general disarmament under an effective system of control. They deplored the recent action of the Soviet Union in withdrawing from the tenation meetings, thus frustrating its work. The Committee agreed that efforts for the resumption of meaningful negotiations must