

### Gift of muskoxen to U.S.S.R.

A herd of 14 Canadian muskoxen will be settling into a new home in the remote Arctic region of the Soviet Union when the long nights descend on the North next winter.

Judd Buchanan, Indian and Northern Affairs Minister, stated that the animals would be a gift from the governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories to the people of the U.S.S.R. in response to a request for help to re-establish the rugged animals in the Soviet Arctic.

"This gift is being made in the spirit of the co-operation which exists between our two countries as circumpolar neighbours, particularly in the field of Arctic science," Mr. Buchanan said.

While evidence suggests that muskoxen crossed to North America from Asia about 90,000 years ago, the only native populations of the species today are found in Arctic Canada and Greenland. Some herds were recently introduced to Alaska.

The reintroduction of the animals into Siberia is a positive step to maintain and preserve this unique species in its natural habitat.

The Old World species became extinct in Europe following the disappearance of the continental glaciers, though there is, however, evidence that muskoxen may have existed in



*These muskoxen appeared in the NFB film Islands of the Frozen Sea.*

Siberia up to about 2,000 years ago.

In Canada a number of herds exist mostly on the Arctic Islands. On Ellesmere, Melville and Banks Islands, where most of the species live, are found the three largest herds — 4,000, 3,300 and 4,000 animals respectively.

The herd for the Soviet Union, which will include young males and females, will be collected by the Northwest Territories Game Branch, with the assistance of the Canadian Wildlife

Service. Arrangements for the flight of the animals direct from Canada to the U.S.S.R. are being made by the Soviet Union. They will be accompanied by two Canadian biologists at least as far as Moscow.

The Soviet Government has indicated that the final destination of the herd may be the Taymyr Peninsula on the Siberian Coast, where the inhabitants, known as Dolgans and Nentsy, follow a somewhat similar lifestyle to the Canadian Inuit.

### Device enables handicapped to type and use computer

A device that interprets eye movement and enables the severely handicapped to type and communicate with a computer has been developed by researchers at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. This is one of a series of electronic aids developed for the severely handicapped by the Biomedical Engineering Unit at Queen's.

According to Professor Denis Lywood, director of the unit, the purpose of the Eye Movement Control Communication Aid (EMCCA) is to provide highly motivated individuals who are severely handicapped with a means of rapid communication with the computer via a remote terminal. This system can also be used for comparatively high-speed typing on an electric typewriter.

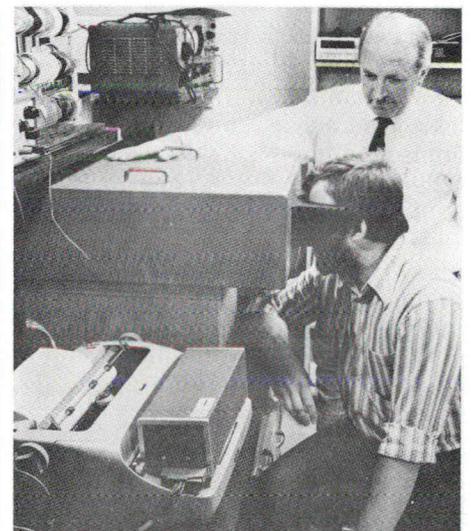
Assisted by a \$9,200-grant from IBM Canada Limited, Professor Lywood, a physicist, and electronics engineer Jiri Vasa have adopted a method of measuring eye movement to operate a keyboard.

#### How it works

The device, built into a light-proof casing which has a viewing hood for the user, operates as follows:

(1) The letters of the alphabet are displayed inside the casing, along with numbers, symbols, punctuation marks and other characters which represent typing functions such as back space and carriage return.

(2) The user looks at the desired character and a photo-electric device in the unit can "read" the position of his eye and determine which character



*Professor Denis Lywood (standing) and Jiri Vasa demonstrate the Eye Movement Control Communication Aid (EMCCA) in the Biomedical Engineering Unit's laboratory at Queen's.*