

new problems or new needs brought on by the evolution of science and technology and their role in the social and economic life of Canada, leads to proposals for new associate committees. One, which was authorized in 1968-69, on Instructional Technology, held its inaugural meeting during 1969.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

A proposal for an associate committee to collate and publish an integrated set of scientific criteria for environmental quality was formulated in 1969-70. This committee will replace the Associate Committee on Water Pollution Research, formed in 1965, whose terms of reference and activities were no longer adequate or appropriate in view of a rapid evolution in the field of environmental quality.

The new committee will not be involved in the setting of standards for pollutant emissions or for the enforcement of such standards. These will continue to be the functions of those departments of federal, provincial or municipal governments having the appropriate legislative powers. What the committee will do, is to provide a scientific reference base for those who must set and enforce standards. This reference base will take the form of an integrated set of quantitative criteria, based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence, which will make possible an evaluation and prescription of the quality of the environment with respect to different pollutants and for all uses of the environment. It will include not only those pollutants which have a direct effect on man, but also those which have an indirect effect through their influence on plant or animal life.

The organization and procedures to be adopted for this purpose are based on those used for the publication of the National Building Code. It is felt that the task of this committee is of great importance, and will be a continuing one. As was the case with the National Building Code, it will no doubt take several years for the associate committee to produce a reasonably comprehensive set of criteria, and these will have to be revised and updated regularly as new knowledge becomes available.

As an additional aid to the work of the committee and its secretariat, as well as to fulfill a growing need in Canada, a documentation and information centre on the scientific and technological aspects of environmental quality will be established within the framework of the scientific and technological information dissemination activities of the National Research Council.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

At the international level, the National Research Council serves the Canadian scientific community and the Canadian Government with respect to international scientific activities in three different areas. These are: (i) scientific exchanges with foreign countries; (ii) Canadian participation in international

scientific unions and organizations; and (iii) scientific organizations of intergovernmental organizations.

Currently the Council administers formal scientific exchange agreements with a number of other countries: the Soviet Union, France, Czechoslovakia and Brazil. In general, these provide for two categories of exchanges: (a) visits of up to one month by eminent scientists to give lectures and conduct seminars, and in turn, to learn of research being done in the scientific institutions visited; and (b) visits by research workers for periods of up to one year for the purpose of conducting research in a scientific establishment of the receiving country. Selection of candidates from among interested applicants for these exchanges is made each year by a committee of eminent Canadian scientists. The International Relations Office makes the necessary arrangements for accommodation and internal travel for foreign scientists coming to Canada under these exchange agreements.

Although science is not supposed to have national boundaries, cultural and political impediments do exist. The system of scientific exchanges has done much to overcome these and to foster better understanding between countries. Canadian science has benefited in many ways through exchange of information, personal contacts, and opportunities to engage in research at the working level.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

The Council also is responsible for the administration of a program of research associateships funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. This is a program under which scientists from developing countries who previously studied in Canadian research centres, spend three months each year for a period of three years, doing research in Canada in a field of work which can be of particular benefit to their own country. An applicant must meet several conditions, one of which is the assurance given by the sending country that between his stays in Canada he will be employed in an institution where he can put to value the result of his research in Canada. Up to 25 associateships may be active at the same time. Initiated in 1969, 11 CIDA-NRC research associateships were awarded up to January 1970. They are designed to help overcome the isolation felt by researchers and to help reduce the "brain drain" from developing countries, as well as assisting them in establishing relevant and viable indigenous research activity.

The National Research Council is the national body adhering to international scientific unions in many scientific disciplines. For that purpose, it has created a number of national committees for international scientific unions which are responsible for advising Council of the desirable degree of Canadian participation in the activities of their respective international union. The committees also recommend the official Canadian representation to international