



Bulletin

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NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Since the National Research Council has a very broad mandate in the field of science and technology in Canada, it maintains close contact with the scientific and technological community both in Canada and abroad. This contact is assured through a wide variety of mechanisms, both formal and informal, at different levels within the organization.

The Council itself, whose membership is drawn from a variety of disciplines, geographic regions, and economic sectors, forms one very important formal mechanism for interaction at the policy-making level. At the other end of the spectrum, the day-to-day work of both the scientists and engineers in the laboratories, and the personnel charged with the administration of the extramural activities of the National Research Council, brings them into contact with a wide representation from the scientific and technological community.

ASSOCIATE COMMITTEES

Since 1917, the National Research Council of Canada has used its associate committees as instru-

ments for studying, co-ordinating, and promoting research on problems of national concern, and for Canadian participation in international scientific programs, such as the International Geophysical year 1957, International Hydrological Decade, and International Biological Program.

The term "associate committee" was used to indicate a close relation with the National Research Council of Canada itself. Committee members are drawn from the university, industrial and governmental sectors of the national scientific community, and are chosen, by virtue of their knowledge and experience, for the contribution they can make to the particular work assigned to the committee.

A committee may concern itself with an immediate or short-term problem, or it may have a continuing responsibility in a particular area of science or engineering. Many of the problems assigned to committees are interdisciplinary in nature requiring the contribution of experts in a number of scientific disciplines.

During 1969-70, four associate committees reported that their purposes had been fulfilled, and accordingly were terminated. These included the Committees on Radiation Biology, Biophysics, High Polymer Research, and Gearing Research. The forums that were provided by these committees now are supported in the form of conferences or seminars by the National Research Council and by scientific and professional organizations.

Another group of committees which had long historical connections with NRC was transferred to the Canada Department of Agriculture on April 1, 1969. The progenitors of these committees (Grain Research, Plant Breeding, Plant Diseases and Animal Nutrition) were amongst the earliest established by the Council, which at one time, were known as Joint Committees of the National Research Council of Canada and the Department of Agriculture.

While some committees are terminated, having achieved their purposes, and others are handed over to more appropriate organizations, the definition of

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