

AECL EQUIPMENT TO WEST GERMANY

The largest facility in Europe using radiation from cobalt 60 to sterilize medical products has been designed and built by Commercial Products of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and installed near Stuttgart for a West German firm.

The purchaser is Firma Willy Rusch, which manufactures rubber, latex and plastic instruments for anaesthesia, urology, surgery and internal medicine. Cobalt 60, which emits gamma energy, will ultimately sterilize the whole of the firm's instrument production. In addition, the West German company will take on custom sterilization contracts for other manufacturers. The facility has completed operation trials.

The sterilization equipment was built in Canada and shipped by air to West Germany.

Initial loading of cobalt 60 from Commercial Products is 90,000 curies; however, the facility has a capacity of 1.5 million curies. At present the plant can sterilize 1.2 tons of instruments a day.

The Commercial Products group of AECL is one of the major producers of cobalt 60, which has a variety of uses in medicine, agriculture and industry. It also designs, manufactures and sells a wide range of equipment and materials for radiation.

The Willy Rusch Company expects to sterilize the whole of its instrument production from the Stuttgart factory in about a year.

ARCTIC EXPLORER HONOURED

An agreement to honour the work of Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the Canadian explorer, writer and polar-region consultant, has been signed between the Federal Government and the Province of Manitoba. Mr. Arthur Laing, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, in making the announcement recently, said that an appropriate memorial would be erected in Arnes, Manitoba, where Stefansson was born. Both the Federal Government and the government of Alberta will place suitably inscribed plaques at the site.

The main work of Stefansson, who was born in 1879, was in the development and application of ideas in travel, living and survival in polar regions. His first scientific expedition was in 1904 when, as a graduate student at Harvard, he made a brief trip to Iceland.

ARCTIC EXPEDITION

The most important work Stefansson undertook for Canada was as commander of the Canadian Arctic Expedition from 1913 to 1918, the purpose of which was both to explore and to gather scientific knowledge. As a result of the expedition, several new geographical features were put on the map and the task of filling the blank spots of the Arctic Archipelago was completed. It also proved that extended travel across moving icefields was possible by sled and that persons travelling in the North could survive on native food and supplies.

AUTHOR AND LECTURER

In the 1920s Stefansson began writing and lecturing about the North. His best known works in this sphere were *The Friendly Arctic* and *The Northward Course of Empire*, in which he set out his philosophy on the subject of the North. Stefansson was thanked for his work by the Canadian Government by an Order-in-Council issued in 1921. In 1952, the Canadian Board of Geographical Names honoured him by naming a large island north of Victoria Island after him.

Stefansson received seven honorary doctorate degrees from several foreign universities and he was also designated an eminent Canadian by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Stefansson died in Hanover, New Hampshire, United States, in 1962.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS BOOK

Mr. Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, recently announced the publication of a book entitled *Documents on Canadian External Relations, 1909-1918*, the first of a series that will make available to the public state papers and documents dealing with the foreign policies and international relations of Canada.

The 900-page volume contains over 1,200 official papers (letters, despatches, telegrams, memoranda and Orders-in-Council), arranged in seven chapters, "Conduct of External Relations", "The 1914-1918 War", "Imperial Relations", "Boundary Questions", "Fisheries", "Asian Immigration", and "Relations with Individual Countries". The documents appear in chronological order for each of the subjects.

This volume opens with a memorandum proposing the establishment of the Department of External Affairs, and includes all important documents to the end of the First World War in 1918.

DUTCH BUILDING EXPERTS VISIT

Three Dutch building authorities, concerned with Netherlands winter layoffs in the construction industry, spent a week in Canada recently to study winter-building techniques. The visitors were members of the Netherlands Foundation for Layoff Prevention in the Building Industry.

The Department of Trade and Commerce, which sponsored this trade mission, believes that Canadian methods could help Holland reduce the number of winter layoffs in its construction industry. Acceptance of Canadian methods could result in further timber and plywood exports to the Netherlands.

The three-man delegation pursued their investigation in Montreal and Ottawa, where they examined winter construction of garden homes, single-family dwellings, apartments and commercial buildings.

Financing arrangements, winter-incentive building programmes and the technical aspects of construction in severe climatic conditions were discussed in the capital during meetings with officials of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Department of Labour and the National Research Council.