

## CANADA-FRANCE URANIUM TALKS

The following announcement was made in the House of Commons on May 25 by Mr. Mitchell Sharp, the Minister of Trade and Commerce:

As the House is aware, I returned over the weekend from a visit to Paris, where I held discussions with ministers of the French Government regarding uranium. At the conclusion of the discussions, the following joint communiqué was issued on May 22:

"The French Secretary of State for Scientific, Atomic and Space Affairs, Mr. Yvon Bourges, and the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, have concluded today a series of talks on matters pertaining to a sale of uranium by Canada to France. In the opinion of the Canadian and French ministers, these discussions should be viewed in the context of increasing co-operation between the two countries, which has been witnessed by other recent talks at ministerial level.

"The purpose of the discussions concerning a proposed sale of uranium was to provide for a first exchange of views at ministerial level on the main questions involved in the provision by Canada of fuel required for France's rapidly ex-

panding programme of nuclear reactors for the production of electrical power. The ministers noted with satisfaction that the discussions had been of great value to both sides in the examination of various aspects of the proposed sale.

"The two ministers will report to their Governments on their conversations...."

### NO CONTRACT MADE

At these meetings in Paris we did not attempt to negotiate a contract of sale for Canadian uranium. We were concerned only with the general conditions under which a sale could be negotiated and under which uranium could be exported from Canada by producers.... The export of uranium from Canada requires the approval of the Government.

I made it clear during the discussions that, in accordance with the firm policy of the Canadian Government, the proposed sale of uranium could be only for peaceful purposes. As the communiqué indicates, the French Government, for its part, is interested in acquiring Canadian uranium for its civil programme of nuclear reactors for the production of electrical power.

among the three countries and the need for exchange programmes for professional fire-research personnel.

Delegates to the conference from Mexico were Sr. Jose Verduzco of the National Forest Research Institute and Ing. Librado Solorzano B., Department of Forest Fire Fighting and Prevention. The U.S. delegates were Dr. Keith Arnold, Elmer M. Bacon, Merle S. Lowden, Jack S. Barrows and Mal Hardy, all of the Department of Agriculture Forest Service, and Leon R. Nadeau of the Department of the Interior and Fred E. Holt, State of Maine Forest Service. The Canadian representatives were J.C. Macleod and D.R. Monk of the federal Department of Forestry, William Foster of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests and F.H. Hewett of the Saskatchewan Forestry Branch. A.L. Best, liaison officer for the North American Forestry Commission of FAO, Mexico City, attended in an ex-officio capacity.

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## CANADA MARKS ITU CENTENARY

On May 17, the centenary of the founding of the International Telecommunication Union, Transport Minister J.W. Pickersgill sent a telegram to the Secretary-General of the ITU expressing Canada's appreciation of the work done by the Geneva-based organization and welcoming the opportunity to continue Canada's work with the other member states in furthering the progress of world telecommunications.

Canada has been an active member of the ITU since 1907, shortly after Marconi first transmitted wireless signals from Poldhu, England, to St. John's, Newfoundland.

## FOREST-FIRE EXPERTS MEET

Man and his behaviour in relation to forest fires will become a major subject of study by the member countries of the Forest Fire Control Working Group of the North American Forestry Commission, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which met in Ottawa from May 10 to 13. "In spite of the fact we live in the space age and are working to apply the latest in electronic and other technological advances, man is still the crucial element in forest-fire control", stated Dr. Keith Arnold of the United States, Chairman of the Working Group.

The 13 delegates to the FAO-sponsored body, representing Mexico, United States, and Canada, concluded that more efficient methods of enlisting active public support for forest-fire prevention policies would depend on a detailed analysis throughout North America of the crucial interrelations of people and forests.

### ACTION PROGRAMMES

Because of the greatly increased travel among the three countries, action programmes are required to inform border-crossers and residents of border areas better regarding forest-fire regulations. The problems of communicating forest-fire information in the three major North American languages—English, Spanish and French—will also come under study.

Another matter of great importance in the opinion of the Group is the further development of "mutual aid" programmes for fire control in border areas between Canada and the United States and the United States and Mexico.

The Working Group noted a great need for an improvement in the flow of fire-research information