

## AECL TO BUILD U.S. PLANT

The Commercial Products Division of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited has been awarded a contract by Ethicon, Inc., Somerville, New Jersey, for the design and construction of a plant to sterilize surgical sutures. The plant, to be built at San Angelo, Texas, and to be completed in the latter half of 1964, will irradiate sutures with gamma rays from cobalt-60 produced in reactors at the Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories. The installation will consist of a small, heavy-walled building, with a maze of thick walls surrounding a pool 20 feet deep, in which cobalt-60 is stored.

A conveyor system will carry packaged sutures into the building to be exposed to the gamma rays. The radioactive cobalt will be in the form of more than a thousand cylinders, each one inch long and a quarter-inch in diameter. The total strength of the cobalt will be 60,000 curies. (A curie is a unit of radioactivity, the quantity of a radioactive isotope in which 37,000 million atoms disintegrate every second.)

### PIONEER DIVISION

AECL's Commercial Products Division, which has its laboratories and offices in Ottawa, pioneered the commercial applications of cobalt-60 in medicine, industry and agriculture. The division has built more than 300 medical-therapy units and has installed them in hospitals in 39 countries. A truck-mounted, mobile cobalt-60 irradiator designed by the division is being used to demonstrate the feasibility of using gamma rays from cobalt-60 to inhibit sprouting in vegetables.

### RESEARCH AIMS

Twenty-five smaller irradiation units have been installed in various laboratories in Canada. Eight such units are in continuous operation on many co-operative programmes jointly carried out by AECL and other organizations to investigate the effects of irradiation on materials and foods. Some of the investigations aim at the improvement of materials like cotton and nylon and the development of radiation resistant greases; and other studies relate to the preservation of such foods as onions, strawberries, pears, apples and fish. Micro-biological investigations of serums and vaccines are being conducted with the aid of cobalt-60 irradiation units.

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## CANADA-JAPAN COMMITTEE

The second meeting of the Canadian-Japanese Ministerial Committee will be held in Ottawa on September 25 and 26. The establishment of this body was agreed on by the Canadian and Japanese Prime Ministers on the occasion of Prime Minister Ikeda's visit to Canada in June 1961. The Committee is not a negotiating body but is intended to provide an opportunity for free exchange of views between ministers of the two countries on matters of common interest.

Its first meeting was held on January 11 and 12, 1963, in Tokyo.

Canada will be represented at the forthcoming meeting by Mr. Paul Martin, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Walter L. Gordon, the Minister of Finance, Mr. Mitchell W. Sharp, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, other ministers to be named at a later date, and Mr. Richard Bower, Canadian Ambassador to Japan.

Japan will be represented by Mr. Munenori Akagi, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Mr. Kakuei Tanaka, Minister of Finance, Mr. Hajime Fukuda, Minister for International Trade and Industry, Mr. Shigenobu Shima, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Nobuhiko Ushiba, Japanese Ambassador to Canada.

The Japanese delegation will arrive in Ottawa on September 24. Following the meetings, the members will fly on September 27 by way of the St. Lawrence Seaway to Toronto and will visit Niagara Falls and hydro and canal developments in the Niagara Peninsula.

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## TRANS-CANADA JET FREIGHTERS

Trans-Canada Air Lines will begin jet-freighter service across Canada on October 28, with DC-8F jet traders capable of carrying up to 45,000 pounds of cargo in their freight compartments and in lower holds. The new service, which will operate between the principal cargo-generating centres of Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver five days a week, Monday through Friday, will provide Canadian manufacturers and shippers with the fastest, most economical air-freight service in the world. Vancouver will be less than six flying hours away from Montreal; Toronto, just two hours from Winnipeg.

The DC-8Fs will carry six pallets of freight. Each pallet is capable of holding up to 7,000 pounds of cargo, but the average load will be about 5,000 pounds. Additional freight can be carried in the holds below the main aircraft deck.

### WEST-EAST SERVICE

The jet traders will operate westbound in the late evening hours and return during the day, with an early-morning departure from Vancouver. In addition, TCA will provide through jet-freighter service from Vancouver to London, England, three days a week, to service shippers and receivers in Western Canada with one-day service to Britain.

At present, TCA has two DC-8Fs in mixed freight-passenger configuration operating on the North Atlantic route between Montreal and London. Two other DC-8Fs in all-passenger configuration are also in service and a fifth jet trader is scheduled for delivery early in 1964.

TCA was the world's first airline to introduce jet freighters.

### READILY CONVERTIBLE

Powered by four Pratt and Whitney JT3D turbo-fan engines, the DC-8F cruises at 550 miles an hour. It is readily convertible to carry varying "mixes" of cargo and passengers to meet seasonal fluctuations and to permit air-freight capacity to expand with the

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