



CANADA

CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 17 No. 43

October 24, 1962

CONTENTS

The Most Fateful Decision in the World	1
New Engineering Test Reactor	3
U.S.-Canada Lumber Talks	3
New Czech Envoy	3
Chain-Store Sales & Stocks	3
Fifth Winter Works Programme	4
Agricultural Training Meet	4
New RCAF Jet for NATO	4

Iceland-Canada Visa Pact	4
Canada-San Marino Visa Pact	5
Airport Room Facilities	5
Arctic Oil Sands Discovered	5
Mineral Production	5
Ex-Premier TCA Director	5
RCAF Cadets Chosen	6

THE MOST FATEFUL DECISION IN THE WORLD

The following statement was made to the First Committee of the United Nations on October 11 by General E.L.M. Burns, the representative of Canada:

"...In the opinion of the Canadian Delegation there is nothing before this Assembly which is more urgent or fateful than the question of how to put a final stop to the testing of nuclear weapons. This is an object for whose achievement all members of the organization should stand united, for all of us will suffer if these experiments continue. The United Nations General Assembly cannot legislate an end to nuclear tests, but it can and should use the immense moral force of its decisions to press for a speedy solution of the problem.

"...My Government remains unequivocally opposed to all nuclear-weapons tests. That virtually all delegations also oppose them has been made clear by the statements which we have listened to in the general debate in plenary. This can be taken as proof that nuclear testing is opposed by the vast majority of men and women all over the world.

OBJECTIONS TO ATOMIC TESTS

"Canada is opposed to further testing for two good reasons. In his statement in the general debate, the Secretary of State for External Affairs emphasized that, first of all, we are gravely concerned by the dangers to human health which result from nuclear testing. In our view, which we believe is supported by scientific findings, the bodily health of everyone is endangered by exposure to additional radiation. But, what is more disquieting, increased radioactivity resulting from nuclear tests can have incalculable effects on future generations. This generation would, therefore, perpetrate a grave moral wrong on posterity by continuing nuclear testing.

"It may be said that, from the humane and moral standpoint, these arguments are sound, but that, if considerations of defence and national security require them, nuclear-weapons tests must go on, notwithstanding their undesirable effects. But does continued testing improve the security of any nation? In the short term, it may be claimed that nuclear testing is required in order to effect or restore a balance in weapon power. But is there any reason to think that national security can be maintained over the years in this way? In my view, there is not. A protracted competition in this sphere -- between super-powers already armed to a degree hardly imaginable -- can only increase international tensions, and the ultimate danger of nuclear war. The major nuclear powers are themselves in agreement that continued testing increases the pace of the armaments race. In a joint statement released last August 27 by the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the President of the U.S.A. we read the following sentences: 'The U.S.A. and the U.K. cannot emphasize too strongly the urgency we attach to the problem of ending all nuclear testing once and for all. For the safety and security of all of us, this deadly competition must be halted and we again urge the Soviet Government to join with us in meaningful action to make this necessity a reality'.

SOVIET UNION AGREES

"The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. has been equally firm in spelling out the grave consequences of continued testing. In a letter addressed by him to Prime Minister Macmillan in April of this year, he wrote as follows: 'Throughout the world the peoples are justly expressing their indignation not only because nuclear tests lead to the