

VISITOR FROM VIETNAM

The Honourable Vu Van Mau, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Vietnam, accompanied by his Executive Assistant, Mr. Nguyen Huu Chi, paid brief visits to Ottawa and Montreal recently.

On his arrival at Uplands Airport, the Vietnamese Foreign Minister was greeted by representatives of the Canadian Government. He called on various Government officials when he was in Ottawa and had discussions with Colombo Plan officials. The Government of Canada entertained at a dinner at the Country Club in his honour, when Mr. Donald Fleming, Minister of Finance, acted as host.

In Montreal, Vietnamese students called on the Minister at his hotel, and he visited the University of Montreal. Mr. Mau appeared on the French language TV programme "Affrontement".

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DEFENCE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

An estimated 800 defence scientists and service technical officers from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States heard nearly 50 scientific and technical papers at the Defence Research Board's Tenth Annual Symposium held in Ottawa from December 3-5 inclusive. Emphasis during the series of closed sessions was on operational research with 11 separate presentations covering DRB activities in this field.

Mr. George R. Pearkes, Minister of National Defence, welcomed the visitors on the morning of December 3. The guest speaker, Sir Owen Wansbrough-Jones, Chief Scientist, Ministry of Supply, addressed the participants on "Some Tactical Consequences of Strategic Determinants". He was introduced by Dr. A.H. Zimmerman, Chairman of the Defence Research Board.

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FUTURE ENGINEERS

About 2,139 engineers will graduate from Canadian universities and colleges next May, according to figures collected by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from the enrolment in the final undergraduate year. This figure is almost identical with that of 1957 (2,143).

Prospects are that the number graduating in the year following will show an increase. Some 2,608 students are in the classes expected to graduate in the spring of 1960 and, on the basis of wastage rates established in recent years, about 2,300 should graduate at that time.

Total undergraduate engineering enrolment for the current (1958-59) academic year is approximately 14,900. This total is also about equal to that of November 1 last year.

NEW RADIO STATION

A step of major importance to Canada's northern communications and to international aviation was taken with the opening recently of the Department of Transport Aeradio-Marine Radio station at Churchill, Manitoba.

Departmental officials from Ottawa headquarters and the district headquarters, Winnipeg, as well as civic and military officials from the town of Churchill and the military establishment, were on hand for the official opening. Also present were officers of the Hudson Bay Route Association, the National Harbours Board and other interested persons.

The new station replaces a marine radio station built in 1930 and an aeradio station built in 1942. It comprises four major units: a transmitter station four miles from the control point, a remote receiver station shared with the RCAF, the control centre and 20 apartments to house the staff located at Fort Churchill.

The new station provides a radio beacon for sea navigation, weather broadcasts and ice reports by both message and radio facsimile charts for shipping. It serves northern aviation, including international flights using the trans-Polar route, by providing a radio range for navigation, weather information and a fast message service from aircraft to their despatch centres. For example, an aircraft over Hudson Bay can send a report to its headquarters in San Francisco in eight minutes, the message being received at the new Churchill station, sent to the Department's Winnipeg station by direct teletype, and then forwarded by another direct circuit to San Francisco.

The Churchill station also serves as a main link for message service to the Canadian North, beyond the areas covered by telephone and telegraph lines. It is connected with meteorological stations, Hudson Bay posts, mining camps and missions, many of which reach it via the Department's radio teletype at Coral Harbour on Southampton Island.

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AUTOROUTE OPENED

The first section of the Montreal-Laurentian Autoroute was officially opened by Premier Maurice Duplessis on November 30.

When completed next autumn, the new expressway will carry six-lanes of traffic along a 29 mile stretch, with a 100-foot median separating north and south bound vehicles. Constructed at a cost of \$100 million, the autoroute brings the total of asphalt laid by the Provincial Government of Quebec since 1944, to 12,000 miles.

The new expressway will link Montreal with Mont Laurier and Abitibi to the north.