



CANADA

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## RADIATION - A PERIL BEYOND DISPUTE

Addressing the Special Political Committee of the United Nations on November 2 concerning the report of the UN Scientific Commission on the Effects of Atomic Research, the Canadian representative, Mr. Heath Macquarrie, said:

"Just over a year ago, on October 16, 1961, against a background of sharp alarm following on the sudden resumption of nuclear-weapons testing in the atmosphere, the Canadian representative on this Committee stated: 'Whatever disagreement or doubt there may be about the level of radiation which would pose an immediate menace to human well-being, the fact that all radiation does present a potential hazard and that higher levels increase this hazard is beyond dispute.' The Canadian representative added: 'Everything we learn about the nature and the extent of consequences of radiation reaffirms the gravity of the problem. The fact that we have still so much to learn about its long-term effects cannot fail to add to our apprehension'.

"Since those words were spoken...two important developments have added to our apprehensions for the health and safety of present and future generations. One is the ominous fact that nuclear testing in the atmosphere has, during the last 12 months, been taking place with ever-increasing frequency. The other is receipt by the General Assembly of a second comprehensive report of the Scientific Committee on the effects of atomic radiation. This carefully written and objective report makes it clear that fallout from nuclear tests represents a significant contribution to the total level of radiation to which the human race is exposed. The inescapable conclusion is that

such fallout increases the danger of harmful somatic and hereditary effects of radiation for present and future generations.

### CANADIAN FALLOUT FIGURES

"With the forbearance of the Committee, I shall add a very few figures - very recent figures - from Canadian sources. The Canadian health authorities, in their most recent report on radioactive fallout in Canada covering the months of July, August and the first part of September of this year, have revealed that the average concentration of Strontium-90 in milk reached record levels during that period, and that correspondingly high levels of Coesium-137 and Iodine-131 concentrations in milk were recorded. Thus during the month of July 1962, the average concentration of Strontium-90 in milk reached 26.5 micro-microcuries per gram of calcium, compared with the national average value for the preceding 12-month period of 10.7 micromicrocuries per gram of calcium. While Canadian health authorities do not consider that such levels as yet require the initiating of precautionary measures, all members of this Committee will, I am sure, agree that the magnitude of the increases recorded is highly disquieting.

"The firm opposition to nuclear-weapons tests which Canada shares with so many countries has now been strengthened by the conclusions reached in the second comprehensive report of the Scientific Committee. All of my colleagues here are no doubt familiar with the Scientific Committee's disquieting conclusions on this question, which are set out in Chapter VII of the report. One of those important conclusions

was that 'a final cessation of nuclear testing would benefit the present and future generations of mankind'. It is most significant that this and other conclusions were unanimously accepted by the Scientific Committee, and this on the basis of the most objective and strict evaluation of facts.

#### CONTENT AND CONCERN

"This circumstance is a cause both for satisfaction and concern. From the clear and unanimous expression of such important conclusions all of us can derive the satisfaction of being well and authoritatively advised on this vital question of the harmful effects of atomic radiation. The nature of this advice, however, particularly when viewed in the light of continued nuclear testing, is a cause for immediate and deep concern for all those who cannot remain indifferent to the additional human suffering which will result from unchecked increases in radioactive contamination of the environment. The proceedings in connection with the adoption of Resolution 1629 at the sixteenth session of the General Assembly indeed made it apparent that no member of this organization maintains a detached or indifferent attitude on this question.

"Last year's resolution, which I have just mentioned, was, in some respects, an advance over those of previous years. It sought to encourage the taking of practical steps, both internationally and nationally, to improve and accelerate the exchange of information on the health hazard of radioactive levels in various parts of the world. More particularly, attention was focussed on the problem of learning more about the incidence, concentration and pattern of distribution of radioactivity throughout the world's environment. The resolution, in its second part, for the first time recommended periodic and regular collection of worldwide data on levels of atmospheric radioactivity. The task of setting up a feasible scheme was entrusted to the World Meteorological Organization for study and implementation.

#### A VITAL RESOLUTION

"In view of the prompt and effective action taken at the sixteenth session, the General Assembly is this year faced with the task of consolidating advances made in the light of increased and more authoritative knowledge brought together in the Scientific Committee's second comprehensive report, and in the light of useful studies already made by the World Meteorological Organization in regard to its responsibilities in this field. The fact that nuclear testing is still taking place lends urgency and critical significance to the opportunity we now have to move ahead and to build soundly on the foundations of knowledge laid in previous years. It is with these aims in mind that a large and broadly representative group of delegations has tabled a proposed resolution which has been circulated as Document A/SPC/L.83/Rev. 1. It is the hope and conviction of the co-sponsors that our resolution will attract the support of all member states. The vital problems with which it is concerned deserve the fullest weight of international attention and care which can be mustered in this organization.

"I think it is generally acknowledged that this second report of the Scientific Committee constitutes the most recent and comprehensive document of its kind in its evaluation of the levels of radioactivity to which mankind is exposed, as well as of their effects on human health. Of equal significance is the fact that such a report represents a tangible and useful product of international scientific co-operation carried out under United Nations auspices. I am sure, therefore, that there will be no dissent from the gratitude and appreciation addressed in the draft resolution to the Scientific Committee, and to all those who have made a contribution to its work. The sponsoring delegations also consider it appropriate and desirable to have the General Assembly draw attention to the main conclusion reached in the Scientific Committee's report as quoted in operative Paragraph 3 of the first part of the draft resolution. As was done following the presentation of the first comprehensive report four years ago, the first part of our text would also have the General Assembly request the Scientific Committee to continue its task and report to the Assembly in its eighteenth session on its future programme of work. There is much still to be done and we have confidence in the Committee's unique ability to address itself constructively to the remaining tasks of serious concern to the world in accordance with priorities which the Committee itself is in the best position to determine.

"The second part of our draft resolution would make it possible for the General Assembly, in the light of the progress report received from the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, to take effective and appropriate action in pursuance of the proposal contained in the second part of Resolution 1629 adopted at the sixteenth session. This admirably comprehensive and succinct report was distributed as Conference Document A/5253 on October 8, 1962. The World Meteorological Organization, in consultation with the Scientific Committee and with the International Atomic Energy Agency, has reached an advanced stage in the elaboration of its plans and it seems desirable therefore to reflect this fact in the draft resolution and to indicate the wish of the Assembly that all concerned should facilitate the progress of the task facing the World Meteorological Organization.

"For its part, the Canadian Government has undertaken a review of its own facilities at the national level, which should make possible Canada's joining the plan at an early date following its final acceptance. This procedure is consistent with the attitude taken by the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, at the General Assembly on September 25 of this year. Mr. Green then said: 'The dangers involved are immediate. They affect us now and, what is even more important, they will affect future generations.'

"I suggest...that it would be difficult for any of us here to overlook the grim uncertainties which confront our civilization. Is it not, then, eminently sensible that we should use all of the very considerable scientific resources we possess to determine quickly and effectively the nature and

## IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Both imports and exports were higher in value in August than in the same month last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Imports from all countries totalled \$523 million, up 6.7 per cent from \$490 million in August last year, while total exports, as announced October 12, rose 6.5 per cent to \$555,500,000 from \$521,800,000. This resulted in an export balance of \$32,500,000 (\$31,800,000 was registered in August 1961).

January-August imports were worth \$4,234,600,000, an increase of 14.1 per cent over the total of \$3,712,200,000, for the same period last year, and total exports, at \$4,130,500,000, were higher by 10.6 per cent than the \$3,733-million value posted for the same period of 1961. For the eight-month period, the import balance was \$104,100,000, in contrast to an export balance of \$20,900,000 in the same period last year.

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## SORBONNE HONOURS NRC DIRECTOR

Dr. Léo Marion, Senior Director of the National Research Council of Canada and Director, Division of Pure Chemistry, received an honorary doctorate from the Sorbonne on November 8.

Since 1918, fewer than a dozen Canadians have been so honoured. Among them have been Dr. Charles H. Best of the Banting and Best Research Institute, Toronto, and Dr. Wilder G. Penfield, retired director of the Montreal Neurological Institute.

Dr. Marion holds honorary degrees from five Canadian universities and was the first Canadian to be made an honorary member of the Société Chimique de France in 1957. At that time he was also given a civic honour, when he was awarded the Medal of the City of Paris.

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## MODERNIZATION OF APPRENTICESHIP

"We need to see that apprenticeship is modernized and made more flexible and, above all, to make sure it is properly integrated with other training programmes," Mr. George V. Haythorne, Deputy Minister of Labour, said in his welcoming address to members of the National Apprenticeship Training Advisory Committee, which met in Ottawa November 1 and 2. "The place of pre-apprenticeship training should be frankly recognized and we should not continue to perpetuate outmoded concepts in this or any other training area," he told representatives of labour, management and provincial governments.

Dr. Haythorne said that, on June 30, 1962, there had been 8,092 apprentices in the building trades registered with provincial departments of labour, except in Quebec. At that date there had been about 510,000 persons employed in construction

in these same provinces. "This," he said, "represents only 1.6 per cent, or one registered apprentice, for every 64 workers employed.

Making special reference to the new training facilities being constructed under the terms of the Technical and Vocational Training Assistance Act, Mr. Haythorne said that 450 projects had been approved since April 1961. He reported that these facilities involved a total expenditure of some \$438 million, of which some \$230 million would be provided by the Federal Government. "It is clear from these developments that vocational and technical training of youth and of adults is no longer a minor part of our educational system," Dr. Haythorne stated.

He said that, of the new schools being built, there were about 32 that would be devoted to the training of adults in a variety of trades and other occupations, and that there were also additions being made to 66 schools in this category. Besides these schools, there were 11 new institutes of technology and additions being made to 21 more existing institutes, Dr. Haythorne added.

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## SEPTEMBER FISHERIES

Landings of sea fish and shellfish by Canadian fishermen in September increased 18 per cent, to 210,244,000 pounds from 177,619,000 in the corresponding month of 1961, according to advance figures that will be contained in the September issue of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics report "Monthly Review of Canadian Fisheries Statistics". The landed value advanced 34 per cent, to \$10,857,000 from \$8,130,000 a year ago. Landings in the January-September period were up 9 per cent in volume, to 1,596,217,000 pounds from 1,457,748,000 in the same period of 1961, and 19 per cent in value to \$98,941,000 from \$83,328,000.

### ATLANTIC LANDINGS

Landings on the Atlantic coast increased 12 per cent in September, to 150,856,000 pounds from 135,106,000 a year earlier, and 9 per cent in the January-September period, to 1,104,922,000 pounds from 1,016,817,000 a year ago. Landed value climbed 16 per cent in the month, to \$6,287,000 from \$5,434,000, and 17 per cent in the nine months, to \$55,597,000 from \$47,618,000.

### PACIFIC LANDINGS

The catch on the Pacific coast advanced sharply (40 per cent) in September, to 59,388,000 pounds from 42,513,000 a year earlier, and 11 per cent in the January-September period, to 491,295,000 pounds from 440,931,000 a year ago. Landed value rose substantially (70 per cent) in the month, to \$4,570,000 from \$2,696,000, and 21 per cent in the nine-month period, to \$43,344,000 from \$35,710,000.

### CHEMICALS MISSION TO SOUTH AMERICA

Another Canadian trade mission has been sent abroad as part of the export-trade promotion drive by the Department of Trade and Commerce. The mission is visiting Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina and Brazil this month with the purpose of increasing immediate and long-term sales to South America of the more than 500 types of organic chemicals, including petro-chemicals, produced in Canada. The Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Hees, noted that Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela together imported approximately \$62-million worth of organic chemicals per annum, of which Canada supplied only \$1.75-million worth. He added that a thorough examination of this rapidly-expanding market, followed by a determined sales effort, should materially increase Canada's exports of organic chemicals to the area.

Canada's chemical industry has expanded very rapidly in recent years. In 1961 its dollar volume was \$1.44 billion, an increase of 5.6 per cent over the figure for the preceding year and 63 per cent over that for the preceding ten years. More than 131 Canadian firms throughout the ten provinces and the Northwest Territories manufacture industrial chemicals. Ontario and Quebec are the leading producers, followed by British Columbia, the Prairie provinces and the Atlantic provinces.

### NEW RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

Starts on the construction of new dwellings in all areas of Canada in this year's third quarter increased 3.8 per cent to 40,233 units from 38,762 in the corresponding period of last year, according to advance figures that will be contained in the September issue of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics report "New

Residential Construction". With a decrease of 2.4 per cent in the first quarter and an increase of 5.4 per cent in the second, starts in the first nine months of this year rose 3.4 per cent to 96,241 units, from 93,121 in the same period of 1961.

Completions in all areas advanced 4.6 per cent in the third quarter, to 34,508 units from 32,981 a year earlier, and 8.2 per cent in the January-September period, to 86,982 units from 80,410 a year ago. Units in various stages of construction at the end of September numbered 82,331, greater by 7.2 per cent than the comparable 1961 total of 76,825.

Starts in urban centres of 5,000 population and over eased down 0.2 per cent in September to 8,918 units from 8,934 in the same month last year, but rose 4.0 per cent in the January 1-September 30 period, to 69,956 units from 67,283 in the same nine months of 1961.

Completions in these centres were down slightly (0.2 per cent) in September, to 9,861 units from 9,880 a year earlier, but were up 9.4 per cent in the nine-month period, to 63,936 units from 58,463 a year ago. The number of units under construction at the end of September rose 12.0 per cent, to 59,155 units from 52,797 a year ago.

### RADIATION - A PERIL BEYOND DISPUTE (Continued from P. 2)

degree of the risks involved in artificial contamination of the atmosphere? We cannot do less if we are to accept our responsibility to future generations. We might well do more. It is with these considerations in mind...that my Delegation is presenting this resolution which has been so widely co-sponsored. I hope that it can be unanimously endorsed."

### MODERNIZATION OF APPRENTICESHIP

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