

CSAGI acts as a co-ordinating headquarters and information centre. Sub-committees organized in the various disciplines work out uniform techniques for the world-wide measurements and endeavour to secure as complete coverage as possible.

In Canada, a Canadian National Committee was organized in 1953 as a sub-committee of the National Research Council's Associate Committee on Geodesy and Geophysics. This Committee, which included university and government scientists active in the various disciplines, drew up a proposed program and in 1955 recommended the formation of a small executive or co-ordinating committee to put that program into operation. The Co-ordinating Committee now consists of Dr. C. S. Beals, Dominion Astronomer, Mr. F. T. Davies, Defence Research Board, and Dr. D. W. R. McKinley and Dr. D. C. Rose of the National Research Council. Dr. Rose is Chairman of both Committees. The Canadian program is financed by the various government departments concerned with the activities involved including Mines and Technical Surveys, Transport, National Defence, Fisheries Research Board and the National Research Council. A number of Canadian universities are undertaking an important part in the program and are aided in doing so by assisted research grants from the National Research Council. As in the international organization, the Canadian program is one of co-operation among many scientific groups.

Section 2.—Astronomy

The modern era of astronomy in Canada may be said to have begun in 1905 with the completion of the Dominion Observatory, the national observatory of Canada. Prior to that an astronomical observatory established in 1851 at Fredericton, N.B., was used for a short time to determine the longitude of that centre and for general astronomical purposes; it has recently been rehabilitated as a historic monument. Other small observatories were established, one at Quebec City in 1854 and one at Kingston in 1875. Astronomical instruments were to be associated with the Magnetic Observatory built by the British Government at Toronto in 1839 but there is no record of them being set up until 1881. A small observatory established at McGill University in 1879 was used for many years for time observations.

Today the science of astrophysics is carried on mainly by three Canadian institutions: the Dominion Observatory at Ottawa, Ont., the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory at Victoria, B.C., both of which are administered by the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, and the David Dunlap Observatory associated with the University of Toronto. Of the two Government institutions, the Dominion Observatory at Ottawa specializes mainly in the astronomy of position, in solar physics and in various branches of geophysical work, while the major effort in astrophysics is concentrated at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory at Victoria. The David Dunlap Observatory, founded in 1935, is equipped with very fine astrophysical instruments of a kind similar to those in use at Victoria. It performs not only the functions of a privately financed and administered research institution but is also the nucleus of the Department of Astronomy at Toronto University. In addition to the work of these three major institutions and a number of smaller observatories, investigations in the field of radio astronomy are conducted by the National Research Council, Ottawa.