An evaluation was presented at the third United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy at Geneva in September 1964 of cost estimates of several preliminary designs of large power reactors using heavy water as moderator. These designs represented types for which development work was well advanced. The differences lie in the choice of heat transfer fluid or 'coolant' and the steam cycle. Basically there are three coolants—heavy water, ordinary or light water, and an organic liquid. The heavy water could be under pressure to prevent boiling or to allow some boiling. Light water would have to boil or be in the form of 'fog' or 'wet steam'. The organic liquid must not boil. All types have excellent economic promise and it was decided to develop the boiling light water type chiefly for two reasons. By taking the steam direct to the turbine a boiler or heat-exchanger is eliminated and the efficiency is raised. The second advantage is a relaxation of the strictness of control of leaks needed with hot heavy water, both because of its cost and because of the toxicity of the tritium it contains. Some development of the organic liquid system continues under a new agreement with the United States in support of its program to develop such a system for water desalination as well as for power.

Most of this development work centres on establishing the properties of materials for the arduous environment of high temperatures, and radiation effects affecting the solids and the fluids. In ordinary engineering, the three parameters of stress, temperature and time lead to complex analyses, especially when corrosion and atomic diffusion are active. In reactors, irradiation is a fourth and major parameter. Thus, materials development still calls for a major scientific and engineering program of studies.

Section 3.—Space Research in Canada*

The interests of Canadian scientists engaged in space research continue to be mainly in the field of aeronomy with particular, though not exclusive, emphasis on the high-latitude atmospheric and magnetospheric phenomena which are now generally believed to be related to the various disturbances on the sun. Canada, with its large land mass extending on both sides of the auroral zone, is ideally located for studies of medium- and high-latitude atmospheric phenomena and Canadian scientists have long been active in this exciting field. While many of the older programs of ground-based observations are still of great importance and are being carried out, the new measurements from satellites and rockets are making a significant contribution to knowledge of solar-terrestrial relations and in the next few years the importance of these studies using the new space techniques will increase.

The satellite program of the Defence Research Board, carried on in collaboration with the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), continues to form a major part of the Canadian space activities. The Canadian satellite 1962 Beta Alpha (*Alouette*), which was launched on Sept. 29, 1962, is still in orbit. Its instruments are functioning satisfactorily and there is every indication that it will continue to operate and send back scientific data for many months to come. The satellite carries a number of experiments but its main objective is the sounding of the ionosphere from above. The ionosphere is the diffuse layer of highly conducting gas lying between heights of about 60 to 300 miles. It reflects radio waves over a wide band of frequencies and is of great practical importance for communications. The underside of the ionosphere has been studied for many years by the technique of sending a short pulse of radio waves up from the ground and examining this pulse after it had been reflected back from the ionized regions. The satellite *Alouette*, however, was the first spacecraft to provide scientists with a continuous sounding of the ionosphere from above.

Other instruments carried by the satellite enable studies to be made of radio waves from outer space and very low frequency electromagnetic waves whose propagation is influenced by the earth's magnetic field. There are also a number of detectors to study cosmic rays, energetic particles in the Van Allen radiation belts and the artificial radiation

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