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Subject: NEW TOBACCO RESEARCH LAIS

OTTAWA, January 22, 1973 — New laboratories are to be constructed early in 1973 at the Tobacco Research Station, Delhi, Ont. The announcement was made today by Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan and National Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde.

Both departments are contributing resources to a Tobacco and Health Research Program, part of which is located at Delhi.

"The long-term aim at Delhi is to develop tobacco varieties and cultural, curing, and other processing techniques that can contribute toward the production of less hazardous cigarette," Mr. Whelan said.

Preliminary work has already demonstrated for example, that cigarettes produced from lower leaves of tobacco plants produce much less tar and nicotine than cigarettes produced from upper leaves.

Through plant breeding, Canada may be able to develop a whole plant containing a much lower percentage of tar-producing constituents and nicotine than is the case in present varieties.

Thus, new types of tobacco when combined with improvements in manufacturing processes such as the production of reconstituted tobacco sheet and advancements in filter design, would enable further steps to be taken in producing cigarettes that would expose smokers to fewer harmful substances.

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Research will be conducted on the chemical and physical characteristics of cigarette smoke at the Agriculture Canada Research Station, Delhi, in new laboratories being built by the Department of National Health and Welfare.

In addition, chemical and physical characterization of the smoke and other studies will be carried out at the University of Waterloo which conducts the twice-yearly tar and nicotine tests for the Department of National Health and Welfare.

"This three-way cooperative research between two government departments and a university will contribute to international efforts to produce less hazardous tobacco products and facilitate Canada's guidance of the tobacco industry in matters affecting health," Mr. Lalonde said.

Communications on these matters between the two government departments with tobacco manufacturers, through the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council, and with growers, through the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Marketing Board, go on regularly.

"The joint research program is one component of a broad program to reduce the hazards of cigarette smoking in which the Department of National Health and Welfare is involved. It includes public education, studies of ways to help Canadians avoid or discontinue smoking, and surveillance of cigarettes on the market," Mr. Lalonde said.

"Canada is now formulating positive programs towards developing types of tobacco products which will be required in the future, with a realization that tobacco must meet certain new quality criteria," Mr. Whelan said. "The new laboratories at Delhi will play an essential role in moving towards these objectives."