

# Eskimo Radioactive Intake Called Under Danger Level

By JOHN E. BIRD  
OTTAWA (CP)—An interim

report issued here by the health department says consumption of radioactive cesium-137 by Eskimos in the western sector of the Northwest Territories is well below maximum permissible levels.

This is the first report by the department's radiation protection division on the results of a radiation measurement program started last year to determine the amount of overall radioactivity in the diet of northern residents.

This measurement program was still in the planning stage in 1962 when American reports said radioactivity levels were higher in the North than in the rest of Canada. In one report at that time, Dr. William Pruitt, an American biologist at Fairbanks, Alaska, said contamination in Canada's arctic regions far surpassed considered safe levels.

Health officials in Ottawa look strong exception to that statement, stating that as far as they knew no measurements had been made which would justify such a declaration. Dr. Pruitt's remark speeded work on the northern study by the radiation division and the interim report contains the first results.

The report gives direct data on cesium-137 levels in caribou reindeer and moose meat and the first information on concentrations of this isotope in the urine of Eskimos.

LONG-LIVED ISOTOPE  
Cesium-137 is a long-lived isotope produced by nuclear explosion and can result in genetic changes that can be passed on to future generations.

Scientific tests conducted in Ottawa showed that the concentration of cesium-137 in caribou and reindeer meat is much higher than in moose meat. The concentration in moose meat is about the same as in beef in Southern Canada.

The higher levels in caribou and reindeer meat arise from the fact these animals feed on lichens, which retain fallout isotopes more effectively than do plants.

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## RACCOONS ENJOY FREE MEALS

Sardines, lam, corn syrup and peanut butter sandwiches make up the diet of these raccoons. Esther Greenberg began feeding the animals four years ago to prevent them from foraging in garbage (CP Wirephoto)

# North America's Attack Warning Centre Buried Deep In Mountain

By FRANK PITMAN  
COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—Under the shadow of Pikes Peak, North America's nerve centre for warning of enemy attack is being buried deep in solid granite and encased in steel.

Only a direct hit—highly improbable—by the biggest known nuclear bomb could knock it out, say experts at North America's Air Defence Command headquarters here.

The sensitive control centre will be so formidable, experts at NORAD say, that it will cost an enemy more to destroy it than it is costing the United States to build it. The cost already has reached \$88,700,000 and may reach \$100,000,000 before the underground centre be-

gins operation late in 1965. The site is deep within Cheyenne Mountain, just south of Pikes Peak. More than 1,200 feet of solid granite extends above the combat operations centre.

NORAD's present centre, located in downtown Colorado Springs, is an inviting target. The buildings resemble any school in any city. The only difference is a steel wire fence around the perimeter and a couple of guard houses.

TOO VULNERABLE  
"One man with a well-aimed bazooka shot could immobilize our present combat operations centre," said NORAD's former commander, U.S. Gen. Earle E. Partridge. He was one of the leaders in urging Congress to

approve the underground site, five miles southeast of the present headquarters.

The combat centre is the heart of NORAD's whole system for detecting and warning of a nuclear assault on the North American continent.

NORAD uses radar on ships, on planes and on land to form an invisible curtain around the continent. All elements are in instant communication with NORAD.

A warning from this network sends NORAD's commander, Gen. John E. Gorkart of the U.S. Air Force, into action. At his direction, retaliatory forces and civil defence agencies are put on the alert, defensive weapons are deployed and he prepares to direct the battle, in

his absence, Air Marshal C. Roy Slemmon, deputy commander, of the RCAF takes over. One or the other is instantly available around the clock.

NORAD exercises operational control of the air defence forces of the United States and Canada.

These forces are supplied by NORAD component commands including the U.S. Army Air Defence Command and RCAF Air Defence Command.

BLASTED FROM GRANITE  
Cheyenne Mountain, in the foothills of the Rockies, rises 9,440 feet above sea level. The underground centre's main access tunnel, 29 feet wide and 22 feet high, enters through the north portal about halfway up the mountainside.

More than 1,000,000 tons of granite have been blasted and clipped out of the heart of the mountain to form nearly three miles of tunnels and chambers.

Eleven steel buildings, providing 170,000 square feet of floor space, are being erected in the chambers. The buildings have space equal to that in 100 average-size three-bedroom houses.

They house the combat operations centre, a complex facility with highly sophisticated com-

puter, closed circuit television and other electronic marvels. The buildings include dining areas, dormitories, an infirmary and a special communications centre.

The buildings are all free-standing, resting on springs and shock absorbers without contact with the walls or roofs of the granite chamber.

Underground support facilities include power generators, industrial water treatment plants, reservoirs with purification equipment, fuel storage area, air filtration and conditioning equipment.

Everything is designed to permit the 76-man staff to operate for weeks without contact with the outside world.

The main access tunnel from the north portal is connected with a smaller tunnel at the south portal. The distance between the two portals is more than four-fifths of a mile. This tunnel, running north and south, is intended to absorb concussion from a blast and carry it safely past the underground chambers. They are located at the end of shorter tunnels bored at right angles to the north-south tunnel. Blast doors weighing 30,000 pounds each seal off the side tunnels leading to the buildings.

Excavation work began in the summer of 1961 and this spring steelworkers began the erection of the first buildings. Other workers are laying water mains and installing hundreds of miles of electric and telephone cables.

Meanwhile, skilled technicians in laboratories elsewhere are developing computers and other electronic devices that will be installed beginning late this year. Engineers say they expect a year will be required to check the equipment before the centre becomes fully operational.

The whole purpose of the project was expressed this way recently by Air Marshal Slemmon: "To convince potential aggressors that our defence is effective and the vital means of command and control is able to survive attack."

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