

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Dr. R.F. Legget, Director of the Division of Building Research, National Research Council, and Chairman of the Associate Committee on Soil and Snow Mechanics, cordially welcomed delegates to the Conference. He noted the expanding development of permafrost investigations in Canada since the First Canadian Conference on Permafrost held in Ottawa in April 1962. The continuously increasing interest and concern in permafrost in Canada was manifested by the presence of delegates from widely scattered points across the country including the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Dr. Legget extended a special welcome to delegates from the United States, several of whom were from Alaska. American agencies represented included the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory and the United States Geological Survey, both of which have carried out extensive permafrost investigations over the years. The absence of Professor K.B. Woods was noted with regret. Until recently he was Chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering, Purdue University and a pioneer in American permafrost investigations, having led numerous field expeditions to northern Canada and Alaska.

Dr. Legget also noted with regret the death of Mr. J.A. Pihlainen in Ottawa on 27 January 1964. Mr. Pihlainen was a member of the Division of Building Research of the National Research Council from 1950 to 1960 during which time he led the Division's investigations of permafrost and associated construction problems in northern Canada. Dr. Legget closed his remarks with a brief description of the Associate Committee on Soil and Snow Mechanics, which sponsored this Permafrost Conference, and its four Subcommittees on Soil Mechanics, Snow and Ice, Muskeg, and Permafrost.

Mr. T.A. Harwood, Chairman of the Permafrost Subcommittee, Associate Committee on Soil and Snow Mechanics, also welcomed those present and encouraged the delegates to contribute to the discussion at the end of each paper. He described the work of the Permafrost Subcommittee and noted that its membership represented various scientific and engineering interests across Canada. Now that the Subcommittee has been in existence for five years, a rotation of its members will be initiated. Mr. Harwood drew attention to the photographic display of construction

in permafrost and to publications on permafrost and northern building, of the Division of Building Research, National Research Council, set up outside the room in which the Conference was held. He hoped that delegates would avail themselves of the opportunity to view the display and examine the publications. The frequent erroneous use of the term "permafrost" was brought to the attention of the delegates and they were urged to keep in mind the definition based on temperature.