



INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR EMINENT NRC SCIENTIST

Ottawa, Oct. 8. -- Dr. Gerhard HERZBERG, Director of the Pure Physics Division, National Research Council of Canada, today was awarded the Frederic Ives Medal for 1964, "in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to research, teaching, and scientific administration". The Frederic Ives Medal is awarded every two years by the Optical Society of America for distinguished work in optics.

Dr. Herzberg is one of the leading authorities on molecular spectroscopy, a branch of physics which deals with the structure of atoms and molecules. One aspect of this work has been the discovery of a number of new molecules (or compounds) in the laboratory, such as phosphorus nitride and phosphorus carbide. He and his group have also contributed greatly to the knowledge of the structure of molecular oxygen, molecular nitrogen, carbon dioxide, acetylene, and prussic acid. As a result of one aspect of Dr. Herzberg's work, astronomers are now able to detect hydrogen in planetary atmospheres. He has also shown that a carbon compound exists in interstellar space.

- 30 -

Biographical Sketch attached

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF DR. GERHARD HERZBERG

Dr. Herzberg was born in Germany, received his early training at Hamburg and studied physics at the Darmstadt Institute of Technology where he received his doctorate and did research at the Universities of Göttingen and Bristol. He served on the Darmstadt faculty, and then joined the University of Saskatchewan staff, holding an appointment from 1935 to 1945 when he joined the Yerkes Observatory of the University of Chicago as Professor of Spectroscopy. He has been with the National Research Council of Canada since 1948.

He was Vice President of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics from 1957 to 1963 and served as President of the following organizations: Section III, Royal Society of Canada; Canadian Association of Physicists; Commission 14 of the International Astronomical Union; and the Triple Commission for Spectroscopy of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, International Astronomical Union, and International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. In addition, he has received several honorary degrees from universities and medals from societies.

He is the author of the following books: Atomic Spectra and Atomic Structure; Molecular Spectra and Molecular Structure -- I, Diatomic Molecules -- II, Infrared and Raman Spectra.

One of the world's most distinguished bodies of scientists, the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in Vatican City, has appointed Dr. Gerhard Herzberg, of Ottawa, a pontifical academician. Dr. Herzberg is director of the Pure Physics Division of the National Research Council and is particularly noted for his work in the field of molecular spectroscopy and its applications in chemistry and astronomy. The Academy, founded in 1603, is directly dependent on the Sovereign Pontiff. Its seventy academicians, drawn from leading scientists all over the world, are appointed by the Pope on a non-sectarian basis upon recommendation by the Academy.

For Immediate Release

From: National Research Council,  
Public Relations Office,  
Sussex Drive,  
Ottawa 2.