

## **FOREST FERTILIZATION, PRAGUE**

An international meeting on the subject of forest fertilization was held in Prague from 23rd to 26th June, 1969. This conference, organized by the Forestry and Game Management Research Institute at Zbraslav (Chairman of organizing committee, Dr. J. Materna), and sponsored jointly by Sections 21 and 25 of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, was attended by foresters from 17 Northern Hemisphere countries ranging from the U.S.S.R. to Canada. The opening address was given by the Minister responsible for Forestry, himself a professional forester.

The fact that this is the second European conference on the theme of forest fertilization to be held in the past two years indicates the growing importance of the subject. We know that increased timber production through fertilization is accepted as a necessity in Finland, and an economic benefit in Sweden. In many other countries the possible economic gains are beginning to be envisaged.

One of the reasons for its attractiveness, as pointed out by C. Carbonnier of Sweden, is that "fertilization belongs to the type of treatments readily adaptable to modern forestry — the fertilizer spreading easily lends itself to mechanization through, e.g., aircraft or helicopter".

A notable feature of the conference was the attention given to questions concerning the economics of large-scale forest fertilization in practice.

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