



Sir John Mason of the British Meteorological Office

Visit by British Meteorologist

Sir John Mason, Director-General of the British Meteorological Office, recently spent a day at AES Downsview lecturing on numerical weather prediction and discussing various concerns of mutual interest with AES managers.

Sir John had been invited to come to AES on the occasion of his week-long visit to Toronto to deliver the Andrew Thompson Memorial Lecture at University of Toronto.

More than 200 government and other interested scientists attended his afternoon lecture, which covered progress and plans in numerical weather prediction (NWP) in Britain. Sir John emphasized the acceptance at top gov-

ernment levels there that advances in NWP are linked to a marked improvement in weather forecasts.

Future plans include getting down to smaller space and time scales, and solving the forecasting problem with numerical modelling methods and with better and more specialized forecast delivery systems. He also outlined parallel plans to improve and increase the use of satellite and radar data to improve short-term weather forecasts, and touched on the area of climatic forecasting, the main topic of his earlier lecture at the University of Toronto.

Earlier in the day Sir John met with Dr. Collin and AES senior managers to discuss international and long-range planning. He also had informal discussions with several groups of AES scientists and managers on NWP, the new Canadian Climate Program, Air Quality and Inter-Environmental research. □