

QUEBEC

DUPLESSIS BRIDGE DISASTER

At three o'clock in the morning the million pound Duplessis Bridge, 60 miles south of Quebec collapsed as four 180-foot spans crashed into the frozen St. Maurice river. Opened only three years ago, the bridge carried the main Montreal-Quebec traffic. Speeding through the bitterly cold night, three cars hurtled through the gap and with lamps still burning sank into the river. By seconds only a taxi missed disaster, as the bridge collapsed behind it. Premier Duplessis of Quebec, after whose father the bridge is named, blames sabotage for the disaster. It's 25 below zero as men look for bodies, so cold that the river steams, but crowds gather bewildered by the disaster which wrecked Quebec's second largest bridge.