



PRESS RELEASE

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

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It was announced in Ottawa and Washington on June 29 that three United States Navy vessels with Canadian representatives aboard would shortly be sailing to the Canadian Arctic regions in support of the joint weather station program which is being carried out by the Governments of Canada and the United States.

These three ships, the icebreaker U.S.S. Edisto, the cargo vessel U.S.S. Wyandot and the U.S.S. LST 533, which served as a cargo vessel, have now returned to east coast ports. During the summer they resupplied the joint weather station established in 1947 on Cornwallis Island, Northwest Territories, for re-distribution to other joint weather stations at Prince Patrick Island, Ellef Ringnes Island and Ellesmere Island.

The U.S.S. Edisto carried two helicopters, which were used extensively and to great advantage on ice reconnaissance missions.

The ships which participated in the supply mission were under the command of Captain Basil Rittenhouse, U.S. Navy, embarked in the U.S.S. Edisto. The Edisto was commanded by Commander W. F. Morrison, U.S. Navy, the Wyandot by Captain T. S. Webb, United States Navy, and the LST 533 by Lieutenant J. E. Vautrot, United States Navy. The senior Canadian representative who participated in the supply mission was Mr. J. W. Burton of the Arctic Division of the Northwest Territories Administration, Ottawa.