

Mounties Keep the Peace in Namibia

Canada has sent 100 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) volunteers to bring "law and order" to strife-torn Namibia.

Last September, the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) sent a formal request to Canada asking for a police contingent to help monitor elections and Namibia's transition to democracy. When word got out to Canada's Mounties, some 2 000 volunteered for the six-month assignment which began in November.

This is the RCMP's first role abroad as a "formed force" since the Second World War. Canada's typical contribution to UN commitments has come through the Armed Forces — usually air, communications and logistics personnel, but sometimes live infantry or armoured suits.

In his annual speech to the opening of the UN General Assembly, Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark said that Canada was proud to send an RCMP contingent to Namibia. "I am pleased to see our legendary Mounties — Canada's earliest peacekeepers — involved for the first time in support of our

country's traditional commitment to UN peacekeeping," said Clark.

The Canadian contingent will join the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) police from 24 countries already in Namibia as part of an overall expansion to 1 500 officers. The Canadian contingent, which is one of the largest, will be deployed mostly in northern Namibia.

The RCMP initiative underlines Canada's longstanding commitment to assisting Namibia on the road to independence, as provided for under Security Council Resolution 435 which Canada co-sponsored. Previous Canadian support for this Resolution includes 255 Canadian Forces personnel deployed in April as part of UNTAG's military component; \$2 million in aid for the refugee repatriation operation that began in June 1989; and 4 000 election ballot boxes presented to Namibian authorities last July.

Canada's legendary Mounties — seen here in the "Musical Ride" — involved for the first time in the country's traditional commitment to UN peacekeeping.

Revolutionary Satellite Scheduled for 1994 Launch

After more than 10 years of planning, RADARSAT — Canada's first radar earth observation satellite system — is now scheduled for launch in 1994. From almost 800 km above the earth, the state-of-the-art satellite will scan the globe from pole to pole and produce high-resolution images of the earth's lands and oceans. Processed and interpreted data will be available just a few hours after RADARSAT passes over an area.

The benefits of this revolutionary technology will be enjoyed worldwide. RADARSAT will view every part of the earth's surface and provide valuable scientific and environmental information on agricultural changes, pollution, deforestation and natural disasters such as forest fires, drought and flooding.

Because the new technology will be able to measure ocean winds and waves, it will improve weather and sea-state forecasts, as well as make fishing, shipping, oil exploration, offshore drilling and ocean research safer and more efficient.

RADARSAT will also gather essential data for Arctic and offshore surveillance. The movement of ships and their tracks through the ice will be monitored. Daily surveillance of Arctic waters and islands will help protect Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic.

The first of a new generation of observation satellites, RADARSAT is capable of discerning objects as small as 20 m wide from an orbiting height of 800 km. Unlike satellites now in orbit, which depend on advanced camera-like technology, the new radar equipment will be able to obtain images at night or through clouds.

"No such commercial radar satellites are presently in orbit," said Larkin Kerwin of the Canadian Space Agency. "Canada is becoming one of the most well placed countries to participate and show leadership in this field."

RADARSAT is a Canadian-led project involving the United States, several provinces and the private sector. The most important feature of the sophisticated satellite is its Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) — a powerful microwave instrument that transmits and receives signals which allow it to "see" detailed images even through clouds and darkness.

The economic benefits of the new remote-sensing satellite will be substantial. More than 1 000 jobs in Canada and approximately \$1 billion in benefits to the country's private and public sectors will be generated. This will help strengthen Canada's world-class position as a leader in remote-sensing technologies — a market expected to account for 30 per cent of worldwide space business by the year 2000.



RCMP