

Canadian Naval Visits

THE visits that are made periodically to foreign ports by vessels of the Canadian Armed Forces often have an important role in the development of Canada's external relations. Accordingly, the Department of External Affairs is consulted by the Department of National Defence in the planning of each year's programme of visits and detailed arrangements for individual visits are worked out through the Canadian diplomatic missions in the countries concerned. The external relations aspects of these visits are complementary to the operational and training requirements of the Canadian Armed Forces. Although the majority of naval visits are purely for operational purposes, it is considered worthwhile, two or three times a year, to give visits connected with what are primarily training cruises a somewhat more official and public character.

Uses of Visits

The latter type of visit provides an opportunity for close and friendly contacts between the government and people of a foreign country and a representative group of Canadians. Thus the visits are a useful vehicle for the representational and public information activities of Canadian missions abroad and, of course, provide a welcome meeting with fellow countrymen for the members of their staffs. The contact of Canadian naval units with the civil and military authorities of other countries can also serve as an advertisement for Canada as a technologically-advanced nation with a distinguished military record. Another important foreign-policy consideration is that visits to which a particular emphasis is given can demonstrate an intensified Canadian interest in a certain country or area — as, for example, when a new diplomatic mission is established.

In 1968 a number of major cruises in this category were made by Canadian naval units, including one in the spring to the Far East and a second in the autumn to Western Europe following NATO exercises in the North Atlantic.

Manila Visit

The Asian tour started with the arrival off Manila of HMCS *Qu'Appelle* and HMCS *Saskatchewan* of the Second Canadian Escort Squadron. Months earlier the Department of External Affairs had arranged diplomatic clearances for the visit with the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs.

Friday, April 26:

0815 — Ships arrival at breakwater.

0900 — Ships boarded by Canadian Consul, Mr. E. L. Bobinski, and the Services Attaché at the Australian Embassy, Commander D. M. Wogan-Brown, Royal Australian Navy (who helped in the practical arrangements for the visit).

1000 to 1200 — Courtesy calls by Squadron Commander and commanding