

Asia-Pacific Foundation Established

The Squadron arrived in Singapore October 5 and on the same day a luncheon was hosted by Captain Porter and Canadian High Commissioner, George W. Seymour, for Singapore officials, businessmen, members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of the Canadian community. The same evening, a reception was held on board two of the ships for representatives of the Singapore and Canadian communities.

On October 6, Captain Porter completed calls on Major General Choo, Chief of the General Staff and Colonel Khoo, Commander of the Republic of Singapore Navy. There were also exchange visits later in the day between Canadian officers on board the vessels and midshipmen of the Singapore Training School. The ships were open to visits by the Canadian community.

An extensive program of sporting events between officers and men of the ships and the Singapore Armed Forces and New Zealand Forces and representatives of the Canadian community was scheduled. Despite weeks at sea without necessary practice and the challenges of the climate, the Canadian teams more than held their own. The crews of the ships also hosted a party for children from the Salvation Army Home. Official responsibilities completed, officers and men turned their attention to the shopping challenge offered by Singapore. While no figures are available, a significant contribution was made by the Squadron to Singapore's GNP.

If sentiments of officers and men are anything to go by, it will not be another eleven years before there is a further ship visit to Thailand. An excellent visit was had by all.

On the official side, Captain Porter and the officers from all three ships were treated to an entertaining evening at the Royal Thai Naval Academy, which featured sword fights and Thai boxing. The next evening, Captain Porter and Canadian Ambassador John Paynter hosted a reception on board HMCS Qu'Appelle, attended by high-ranking naval officers including Vice Admiral Amnuay Iamsuro, Commandant of the Bangkok Naval Station. Captain Porter and Commanding Officers of the three visiting ships also signed the Royal Book of Greetings at the Grand Palace.

Official duties did not prevent the ships' companies from getting to know Bangkok and its environs better through tours and sightseeing. The men of the Fourth Squadron also took time out to play hosts to a group of disadvantaged children from a nearby neighbourhood and to provide tours of the ships for the Royal Thai Navy Academy Cadets.

Before Parliament recessed for the summer, it passed unanimously and in a single day, legislation setting up the Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada. The Foundation is expected to serve as a bridge between Canada and Asia, especially the Pacific Rim region.

Its mandate is set out in Section 3 of the legislation: "The purpose of the Foundation is to develop closer ties between the peoples and institutions of Canada and the peoples and institutions of the Asia-Pacific region by:

"(a) promoting mutual awareness and understanding of the cultures, histories, religions, philosophies, languages, life styles and aspirations in the Asia-Pacific region and Canada and their effects on each other's societies;

"(b) supporting development co-operation between organizations, institutions and associations in Canada and in the Asia-Pacific region;

"(c) promoting collaboration among organizations, institutions and associations in private and public sectors in Canada and in the Asia-Pacific region;

"(d) promoting closer economic and commercial ties between Canada and the Asia-Pacific region;

"(e) promoting in Canada scholarship

and expertise on economic, cultural, social and other subjects relating to the Asia-Pacific region, and in the Asia-Pacific region, scholarship and expertise on economic, cultural, social and other subjects relating to Canada; and

"(f) collecting information and ideas relating to Canada and the Asia-Pacific region and disseminating such information and ideas within Canada and the Asia-Pacific region."

The government will appoint the chairman and nine other members of the Foundation's board of directors. The board will then appoint a further 20 directors, drawing them from the business sector, labour, and the universities. Headquarters of the Foundation will be in Vancouver.

The federal government will provide \$5 million during the first five years of the Foundation's life. Other funding will be provided by the provinces and the business community.

During the past decade, Canadians have experienced a growing awareness of the importance of the Pacific Rim — and beyond that, all Asian countries — to Canada's economy and to the evolving Canadian society. The Foundation represents a further example of this awareness.

ASEAN Science Writers' Workshop

A group of ASEAN journalists has recommended that newspapers and news agencies in their region place greater emphasis on science reports to help in the advancement of science in their respective countries.

They also recommended that science journalism workshops be conducted in order to create a core of competent science journalists to help meet this objective.

The journalists — 14 of them — were participants in the recent Science Writers Workshop held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia September 3–14, 1984. The journalists represented 11 ASEAN newspapers and news agencies.

The workshop was jointly organised by BERNAMA, the Malaysia national news agency, and the Malaysian Press Institute. Funding was provided by the Ottawa-based International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The Asian Mass Communication Research and Information Center provided the services of its science and communication specialist, Mr Adlai J Amor.

"It is most ironic that although science and technology are becoming increasingly important in our daily life, yet we see too little of stories written about it," said Mr Ahmad Mustapha Hassan, General Manager of BERNAMA at the opening of the workshop.

During the two weeks of training

which followed, the participants visited various research institutions which included the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI), the Palm Oil Research Institute (PORIM), and the Tun Ismail Atomic Research Centre (PUSPATI). During these visits Malaysia's leading scientists briefed the journalists on the latest scientific developments in the region.

They also visited a freshwater fisheries research station in Malacca and met with a consumers group involved in the cleaning up of the beaches of Port Dickson.

Many of the journalists at the workshop felt that the training they had received had helped to de-mystify science and technology for them. They rated the workshop "very good," and said that it had motivated them to write more on science and technology when they return to their newspapers and news agencies.

"I was very impressed by the interest in science shown by the participants and the hard work they invested in the course" said the workshop director, Mr Amor. "I have conducted several science journalism workshops and they are the best group so far".

"Science and technology has become part and parcel of our daily lives and a newspaper which does not report on these issues is not informing its readers," he said.