

Dr. Norman Bethune, who was medical adviser to the Chinese army during the China-Japan war, treats wounded soldiers on the battlefield in 1938.



CP Wirephoto

NORMAN BETHUNE HONOURED

During his visit to the People's Republic of China, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, informed his Chinese hosts of the decision of the Canadian Government to declare Dr. Norman Bethune to be of national historic significance and that fitting recognition of his exceptional humanitarian achievements would be made at Gravenhurst, Ontario, his birthplace.

The Minister's announcement was contained in a speech delivered at a banquet in the Great Hall of the People in Peking on August 17. On August 20, Mr. Sharp visited Shihchiachuang, the site of China's memorial to the Canadian surgeon who is honoured in China as a great humanitarian.

Dr. Bethune, who was born in 1890 and died in 1939 in China, pioneered the use of transfused blood on the battlefield. He was also an advocate of free health care.

In the ten years between his release from a tuberculosis sanatorium in 1928 and his death, Dr. Bethune established a reputation on three continents. He was known in North America as a leader in tubercular research and operating techniques; in Spain he established the first mobile blood service for the Loyalist forces; and in China he built hospitals, trained nurses and doctors and treated the wounded.

In October 1939, Dr. Bethune had agreed to return from China to become head of the transfusion service for the Canadian Army, but fresh fighting in that country led him to postpone his trip. During an operation he cut his finger and, without antibiotics or sulphur drugs, blood poisoning set in. On November 13, 1939, Dr. Bethune died a revered hero in China.

A Bethune Museum and a hospital in North China are named after him.

In the People's Republic of China, *In Memory of Norman Bethune*, was one of three articles by Chairman Mao-Tse-tung distributed as recommended reading. Norman Bethune is probably one of the best known foreigners in China.

WIDER ITALY-CANADA AIR PACT

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mitchell Sharp signed in Toronto on August 28 an agreement to amend and broaden the Agreement on Air Transport of February 2, 1960, between Italy and Canada. The amendments increase the number of routes that may be flown by the designated carriers of both countries. Under the revised bilateral agreement, new traffic-points have been added, including Toronto in Canada and Milan in Italy.

The airline designated by the Italian Government may operate services from Italy to Montreal and