

Canadian Aid To The Cambodian Resistance

The Government of Canada delivered \$40,000 worth of humanitarian aid to the non-communist factions of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea. The assistance, consisting of 40,000 metres of cloth plus thread, needles and buttons, was divided equally between the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) at Evacuation Site 2, and Prince Sihanouk's FUNCINPEC at Greenhill Site B.

The material will provide clothing for thousands of civilians in the camps but, most important, it will be made by the Khmer themselves and in styles suitable to their culture and requirements. This assistance is symbolic of Canada's concern for the plight of the displaced Cambodians, as well as Canada's support for their struggle to find a lasting peace in their homeland, free from outside interference.

At the Post-Ministerial Conference following the 19th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting June 26, 1986, Mr. Clark, Canada's Foreign Minister announced that a further \$40,000 in assistance will be given to the non-communist elements of the CGDK in the current fiscal year.



"The sign says it all" – Canadian aid for Cambodian refugees.

Mass Transit In Bangkok: A Possible Canadian Contribution

Bangkok's terribly congested traffic conditions are well-known both to local residents and outsiders, and solutions are being urgently sought to this problem. One approach which is being considered is the establishment of an elevated mass transit rail system. Subways would not be appropriate for Bangkok, because of the very high water-table and soft soil on which the city is built. Many years ago the Thai Government obtained a feasibility study from German consultants which outlined a network of elevated skytrains which could help to relieve the traffic congestion in Bangkok. The system which they proposed involved the use of heavy rail vehicles. Since that time technology in the world has advanced in the field of urban mass transit systems and one of the leaders in the new technology is the light rail transit system of Metro Canada International Limited. This is the system which has been installed in Vancouver for Expo '86.

In order to demonstrate the superiority of the Canadian technology in this field, about a year ago a group of Canadian consultants from Metro Canada International Limited and Lavalin began a detailed study of Bangkok's mass transit requirements. Their final report was submitted to the authorities concerned, particularly the Expressway and Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand, on June

5, 1986. Their findings were that an elevated mass transit system, utilizing Canadian technology, would be both technically and economically feasible for the city of Bangkok. In the course of their study they determined that a fare structure could be established which will be within the budget of the typical Bangkok commuter and yet generate a sufficient revenue to enable the project to be of interest to private investors. Moreover many of the features of the Canadian light rail system would prove attractive in Bangkok because of the smaller area required to install the system and the lighter, quieter operation of the Canadian vehicles. It was determined that for maximum effectiveness a total elevated transit network for Bangkok would require approximately 40 kilometers. However their study recommends that the project could be implemented in stages of which the first stage, which they call the Memorial Line, could be approximately 11 kilometers long.

The findings of this study were warmly welcomed by Thai authorities in this field and they will now be reviewed at the Cabinet level. Of course a project of this magnitude which will require several hundreds of millions of dollars of investment must proceed slowly but as the traffic problems of Bangkok continue to worsen almost daily it is expected that

some decisions will be made in the near future on its solutions. Given the comprehensive and encouraging nature of the MCIL/Lavalin study on a Bangkok Transit system, it is hoped that in the not too distant future Canadian transit cars such as those plying the rails of Vancouver will be carrying Bangkok commuters above the congestion of the streets of this city as well.



Vancouver's Skytrain – A Solution for Bangkok's traffic congestion?