

CUSO helps Indochinese refugees

Canadian University Services Overseas (CUSO) will assist 30,000 villagers in eastern Thailand who have been affected in recent years by the influx of hundreds of thousands of Indochinese refugees.

The Canadian Embassy in Bangkok has announced that CUSO would help implement a \$3-million project for development of health, education, agriculture and other income-generating activities.

Funds will be provided over four years by the Canadian International Development Agency and implementation will be carried out jointly with Thai officials.

It is hoped to double the incomes of the villagers involved while providing expanded health care facilities, assisting schools and improving water resources in the area.

The rural people themselves will establish priorities to be addressed.

Downhill ski race at Whistler

Whistler Mountain in British Columbia has been named the site of one of the World Cup downhill ski races this season.

The Molson World Downhill race, the ninth of 11 races on the World Cup tour for 1981-82, will be staged over a new course on the north side of the mountain.

Canada's top downhillers — Steve Podborski of Toronto, Ken Read of Calgary, Dave Murray of Whistler and Dave Irwin of Vernon, British Columbia — are expected to race, along with the top racers from Europe.

The Whistler event will precede the last two World Cup races of the season, both scheduled for Aspen, Colorado, in early March.

The first

The Canada Ski Association and Molson Breweries of Canada will sponsor the Whistler race, the first World Cup event in Canada since a downhill event was rescheduled for Lake Louise, Alberta in March 1980.

The new Whistler course is on the north side of the mountain and the finish will be on a bluff about 100 metres above the village, located 90 kilometres north of Vancouver.

The old downhill course at Whistler often was plagued by bad weather and race officials feel the new site will have the advantage of colder conditions and less fog.

War years remembered

Two men met recently at Mount Maunganui, New Zealand, far from the German prisoner of war camp where they last saw each other in 1942.

They were Bill Dashwood, a retired bank manager now living at Mount Maunganui and Canadian High Commissioner to New Zealand Roger Rousseau.



Recalling POW days and studying photographs from the camps are Mr. Dashwood (left) and Mr. Rousseau.

Both men had been seconded to the Royal Air Force base at Coningsby, Lincolnshire, England, Mr. Rousseau as an observer and Mr. Dashwood as a Hampden pilot, in 106 squadron.

They were shot down on their twenty-second mission as they returned from bombing Hamburg.

The four crew bailed-out from the burning aircraft over occupied Denmark and landed in an ice-covered field.

Stayed in country

Mr. Rousseau and Mr. Dashwood stayed together and lived in the countryside for three days before going to a farmhouse where they were fed and allowed to sleep in a barn.

They woke to find bayonets at their throats and were sent to Stalag 7 POW camp.

"The first year was not so bad. We were busy adjusting to our surroundings," said Mr. Rousseau.

As officers they did not work and had to keep themselves occupied with sports, drama and, of course, escape plans. Mr. Rousseau made three unsuccessful escape attempts.

Punishment for escape attempts was

30 days solitary confinement. Mr. Rousseau was moved through eight different camps in the three-and-a-half years he was a POW.

The two men celebrated their twenty-first birthdays in Stalag 7. "We were very young," Mr. Rousseau said. "It was not our war. People on both sides were scared."

Mr. Dashwood was in six camps until released by the Russians. "We were left to fend for ourselves for three months before being repatriated," he said.

Mr. Rousseau was more fortunate, he was in London for the VE Day celebrations.

Mr. Dashwood brought back an English bride and returned to the bank he had worked with before the war.

Mr. Rousseau has been in the Canadian foreign service for 32 years and was also Commissioner General for 1976 Montreal Olympic Games. For this service he was awarded Canada's highest civil award — the Companion of Canada.

(Excerpts from an article in The Bay of Plenty Times, October 21, 1981.)

Plans to improve native employment

Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy has announced major initiatives to improve employment for Saskatchewan's native people.

Plans include discussions with the province of Saskatchewan for the development of a Northern Trades Training Institute and establishment of a federal-provincial commission to bring together all parties concerned in the key issue of native employment in the province.

The proposals were put forward as a result of recommendations of a federal task force on native employment in Saskatchewan which examined federal programs in this area.

The proposed commission would seek representation from native associations, federal departments, and private sector agencies and would identify employment requirements of the province's native population, as well as recommend changes to existing programs affecting them.

The task force, which was established by the federal government last year, also recommended changes to the Commission's Local Employment Assistance Program (LEAP), to streamline its administration and to ensure that people of native ancestry, especially native women, are fairly represented in its projects.