

RADIO TEACHER-TRAINING IN KENYA

For the past three years a team of Canadian teachers has been using Kenya radio to broadcast to teachers instead of children. They have been conducting courses for primary school headmasters and teachers throughout this East African country.

This use of radio for professional training is apparently unique. The Voice of Kenya, a government-operated station, provided the air-time for these programs over the English language network, while the Ministry of Education supplied the production staff and equipment. So far there have been 65 successful programs.

The Canadians wrote most of the scripts for these broadcasts, gave direction in the control room and often acted as narrators, announcers and teachers. Thirty-one of the broadcasts were put on the air as a direct teaching method.

The Canadian team, whose members are all experienced teacher-teachers, were sent to Kenya in 1966 by the Canadian International Development Agency in response to a request by Kenya's Ministry of Education. Recruited for the job and placed under contract by CIDA were A.C.E. Ritter, Charles Logie, Edward Babiski and L.M. Annis.

Charles Mustard, a former superintendent of teachers' education in Ontario, headed the team for almost four years but has now been replaced by Mr. Ritter as program administrator.

The main purpose of the CIDA-sponsored program was to help up-date Kenya's educational system by conducting special courses for primary school headmasters and teachers across Kenya. There are about 35,000 teachers, a third of them unqualified, for Kenya's half million school-age children.

FIRST STEPS

On its arrival in Nairobi, the Canadian team set up its headquarters at Kenyatta College in the Kenya Institute of Education. They began their tour of duty by travelling across the country and organizing classes in various places.

In the first year, classes for unqualified primary school-teachers were set up in 54 centers and courses for headmasters were organized in 28 teachers' colleges.

In 1967, enrolment in the teachers' classes had reached 3,300 and by 1968 there were well over 4,000 applicants. Over 1,200 headmasters took advantage of the courses held at the teachers' colleges during vacation time.

The syllabus for the headmasters' courses, designed by the Canadian team, includes school management, supervision and administration; child study; and methods of teaching English, mathematics, social studies and science. This is supplemented by the daily radio broadcasts, and by seminar discussions.

The other series of courses for unqualified primary school-teachers is still helping many a Kenyan obtain a teaching certificate. These courses consist of two one-week residential sessions, broadcasts, correspondence assignments and a written final examination.

NATO AIR FORCES EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Scenery ranging from Danish farmlands to Turkish mosques will become familiar sights for some Canadian airmen this summer when their units take part in the annual Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT) squadron exchange program.

The squadron exchange program is, as the name implies, an exchange between flying squadrons in the various NATO air forces. The activity gives flyers and their ground crews the chance to compare techniques and operating procedures with their NATO colleagues, and also provides an opportunity to operate from unfamiliar bases on a deployed status.

The exchange program is a two-way street. While Canadian squadrons are visiting other countries, representatives from those countries will be dropping in to Canadian bases. For example, while 422 Squadron from 4 Wing is located at Araxos, Greece, 336 Squadron of the Royal Hellenic Air Force will be flying out of 4 Wing at Baden-Solingen, Germany. Various Canadian squadrons will exchange with their counterparts from Italy, Denmark, Turkey and Greece. The squadrons will be deployed from Karup, Denmark, in the north to Murted, Turkey, in the south.

Despite their far-flung operations, one problem, that of language, will not arise. Since English is the international language of the air, the Canadian flyers will not have to become multilingual to operate out of the different countries.



Canadian Captain J.A. Cratchley (left) in discussion with Lieutenant H. Van Os, Royal Netherlands Air Force.