

to customers in the banking, construction, insurance, manufacturing, resources, and transportation industries.

A replica of the I.P. Sharp Associates' system is being installed on one of SIA's IBM 3031 computers in the interests of providing a tangible basis for transferring the technology.

SIA is a major in-house user of I.P. Sharp Associates' software product. Through the partnership SIA will gain experience, knowledge and expertise quickly and, at the same time, offer its service and hardware facilities to others as part of its contribution to the national computerization effort. The new company's educational centre, capable of training 300 students a year, is also a substantial contribution.

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The Dynasty Hotel being built in the heart of Singapore's major shopping district will install a private automatic branch exchange (PABX) system.

The system is developed by **Northern Telecom**, the largest Canadian telecommunications products manufacturer. The Singapore branch of the company, Northern Telecom (Asia), is the Asian regional office for sales and technical matters.

Dynasty Hotel will be the first local hotel to use the SL-1 PABX telecommunications system, which has an automatic wake-up facility, recorded overflow announcement, controlled class of service, maid dial-in, and music on-hold.

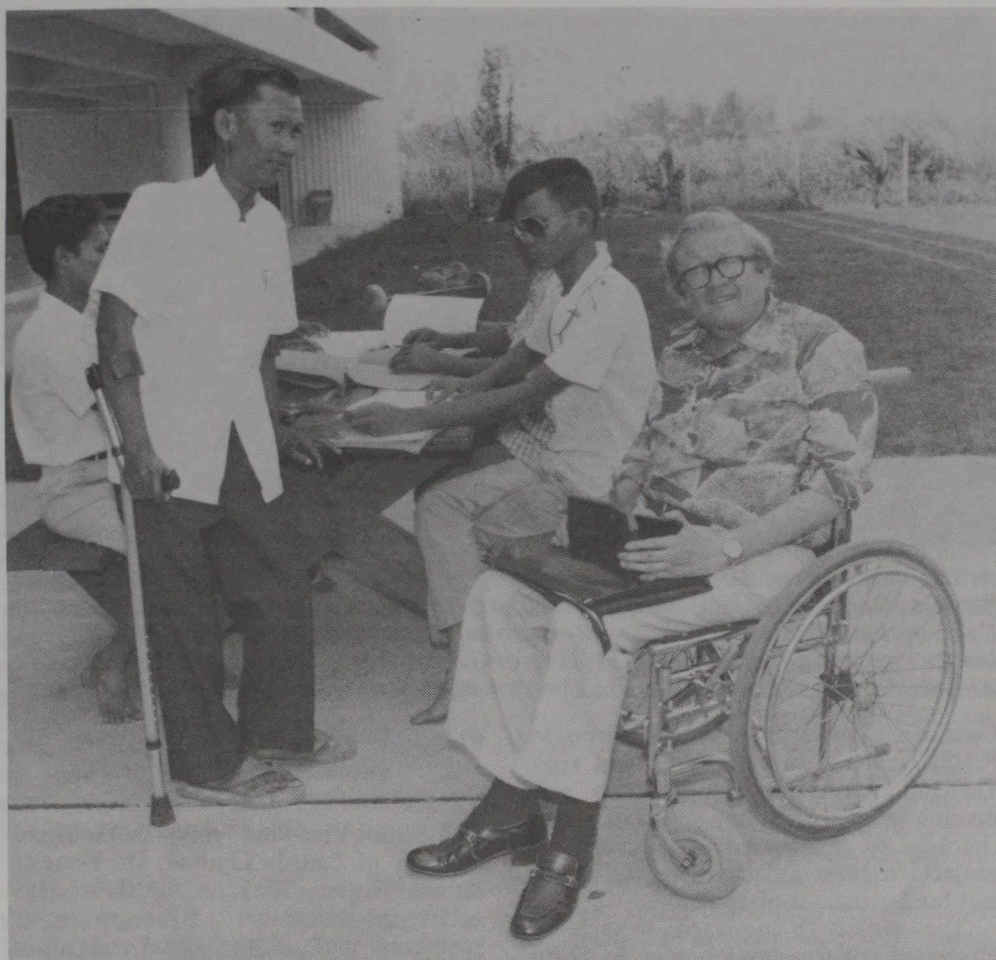
The controlled class of service is regulated by hotel cashiers. Once the guest has checked out, the cashier will switch off the international direct dialling system in the room to avoid disputes on overseas calls charges.

The recorded on-hold overflow announcement means that if all operators are busy on the lines, automatically the caller will be put through to a specific line where he will be told that he will be attended to as soon as the operators are off the busy lines.

With music on hold, a caller will be entertained by hotel piped-in music if a particular room number he calls is busy. At the same time, the guest who is engaged on the telephone will hear a soft beep sound indicating that another call is waiting for him.

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The Assistant Director of the **Singapore Sports Council**, Mr. Desmond Oon, has been given a grant by the Canadian government to study sports administration and sports information data storage and retrieval systems in Canada. Mr. Oon will visit the Sports Information Resource Centre in Ottawa as well as the Ontario government's Sports Administration Centre in Toronto to study the



Mr. Henry Enns (r) from Canada chaired the first World Congress of Disabled Peoples in Singapore before travelling on to spread words of encouragement to handicapped people, including these blind men in one of Thailand's vocational training centres.

systems within these two organisations with a view to introducing similar technology within the Singapore Sports Council.

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Delegates from more than 50 nations attended the first **World Congress of Disabled Peoples**, which was held in Singapore from November 29–December 5.

It was the culmination of dedicated organization by a steering committee formed in mid-1980 in Winnipeg, Canada, under the chairmanship of Mr. Henry Enns. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) provided financial support to help defray the costs of delegates from developing countries to the world congress. Canada was also instrumental in securing recognition and financial assistance for the congress from the United Nations. In 1976, Canada was one of the first countries to speak in favour of the United Nations resolution to proclaim 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Peoples (IYDP).

The 400 delegates to the congress in Singapore discussed the problems of the more than 500 million disabled people around the world.

The delegates also approved a constitution, a manifesto, and a plan of action for Disabled Peoples' International (DPI), the new organization established at the congress. These will be submitted to the United Nations along with a request for consultative status for DPI. Mr. Ron Chandran-Dudley of Singapore was elected the Chairman of the World Council of DPI.

THAILAND

The Chairman of the first World Congress of Disabled Peoples Henry Enns visited Thailand in December as part of his activities in highlighting the **International Year of Disabled Peoples**.

Mr. Enns, who is a physically disabled Canadian, indicated that the recent world congress emphasized the need for disabled people in developed countries to lend their support to those in the developing world.

The specific aims of Mr. Enns Thailand visit were to encourage handicapped persons to form their own organizations and to publicize the needs of the disabled peoples in Thailand.