

GOVERNMENT



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## PRESS RELEASE

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The Department of External Affairs announced today that three United States ships will spend about two months in northern waters this summer. Sailing from United States and Canadian east Coast ports in July they will supply fuel and provisions to the joint weather stations in the Canadian Arctic that have been established there since 1947. The stations are maintained by the Canadian and United States Governments, and representatives of Canadian government departments will take part in the expedition. The senior Canadian representative will be Mr. J.W. Burton of the Northwest Territories Administration, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa.

The ships, the U.S.S. "Edisto", an icebreaker, the U.S.S. "Wyandot", a transport, and the U.S.S. "LST-533", serving as a cargo vessel, will be under the command of Captain Basil N. Rittenhouse, U.S.N., embarked in the "Edisto".

The expedition will carry north the yearly stock of Canadian and United States supplies required by the four joint weather stations now in operation at Prince Patrick Island, Ellef Ringnes Island, Cornwallis Island and Ellesmere Island. If conditions are favourable, the icebreaker may also endeavour to land additional supplies at Alert, the site near Cape Sheridan (northern Ellesmere Island) chosen last summer for a weather station to be put into operation at some future date. This site has been given its name in honour of H.M.S. "Alert", one of the ships of the British explorer, Sir George Nares, who in 1875-6 carried out the first survey of the north coast of Ellesmere Island.

The U.S.S. "Edisto" will carry helicopters to facilitate navigation through the ice and, if time permits, will investigate routes to and sites for possible future weather stations.

The "Edisto" will be commanded by Commander W.F. Morrison, U.S.N.; the U.S.S. "Wyandot" by Commander T.S. Webb, U.S.N.; and the U.S.S. "LST-533" by Lieutenant J.E. Vautrot, U.S.N.