

Around the Region

PHILIPPINES

Canada Pledges Aid to Typhoon Victims



Typhoon "Nitang" wrought massive destruction to human life, agriculture and infrastructure as it crossed the Philippines.

The Canadian Government recently announced it is providing 100,000 dollars to typhoon victims in the Philippines. The funds are being provided in response to an appeal launched by the League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (LRCS) calling for a program of relief for typhoon victims in the country.

Canada made the pledge in the wake of the destruction wrought by typhoon "Nitang" in the southern provinces of Surigao, Bohol, Cebu and Negros. It is being channelled through the Interna-

tional Humanitarian Assistance Program of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and will contribute to the continuing relief efforts of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) in these devastated areas.

Overall damage from the typhoon is placed at \$120 million. Latest casualty lists stood at 1,238 and 538 missing, 1,297 people injured and more than 200,000 people homeless. Damage to property, crops and livestock has reached \$118.5 million and will probably be higher when final figures are compiled.

NFB Documents Relief Operations in the Philippines

A three-man film crew from the National Film Board of Canada (NFB) visited the Philippines 21-27 September on the heels of a devastating typhoon and amid the rumblings of a major volcano in connection with the production of a six-part film entitled "Trois Milliards". This series of 26-minute films is concerned with the collective 3 billion population of the world's developing countries.

The NFB team comprises film director Michel Regnier, Assistant Cameraman Seraphin Bouchard and Soundman Andre Dussault. They have been on the road since June covering the activities of international humanitarian agencies to which CIDA contributes financial assistance. They documented OXFAM's efforts to combat malaria and tuberculosis in Haiti, the ICRC's assistance to wounded Afghan refugees in Pakistan, the FAO's reforestation project in West Africa's Cabo Verde, the UNHCR work in the Sudan and Thailand, and the UNDRO's relief operations in Jamaica and the Philippines.

In the Philippines, the team followed the relief work conducted by UNDRO in the typhoon-stricken areas of Surigao, Bohol, Negros and Cebu, and recorded the damage being wrought by the active Mayon Volcano in Legazpi, Albay. They will next visit Java to cover UNICEF activities in the area.

"Trois Milliards" is a Canadian \$730,000 project jointly funded by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, CIDA and the NFB. It will be shown on Canadian television in May-June 1985 and copies will be available in NFB and CIDA offices.

Filipinos Attend Grains Courses in Canada

The Canadian International Grains Institute (CIGI), an instructional facility in Winnipeg, Manitoba, working in affiliation with the Canadian Wheat Board and the Canadian Grain Commission, has been extending opportunities for technical development in both the government and private sectors of the Philippine grains industry.

Through short-term training courses offered to managers and administrators of the Philippines' National Food Authority and to the private sector through the Philippine Association of Feed Millers Incorporated, the CIGI enables grains specialists to broaden their knowledge in the various facets of grains technology, thereby increasing their effectiveness in

their respective fields of expertise.

This year, three experts from the Philippines attended various courses at the CIGI: Assistant Director Roselinda Galardez of the National Food Authority (NFA) went to the two-month International Feed and Oilseed Course, Regional Director Pablo Bundalian also of the NFA was invited to the 19th International Grains Industry Course, and Assistant Plant Manager Manuel M. Ching of the Pacific Flour Mills participated in the First International Flour Technology Course.

These courses blend academic with practical approaches through a series of lectures which include the most recent technologies, seminars and pilot

plant exercises at the Institute and tours of commercial facilities. Tours of facilities throughout Western Canada — the country's Wheat Bowl — provide participants an opportunity to familiarize themselves with Canada's grain and food processing industries. Specialists are able to conduct in-depth studies of their areas of interest.

Filipino participants work and exchange notes with trainees from other countries, including experts from Canada's grain industry. Participants from over 70 countries have taken part in previous international grain industry courses. These courses have acquired a reputation that is world-wide from this comprehensiveness and currency.