

THAILAND

CIDA President Gets First-hand Look at Development Projects in Thailand

Following quickly on the heels of Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda's visit to Canada, CIDA's President, Mrs. Margaret Catley-Carlson, visited Thailand from May 12 to May 22. The visit afforded Mrs. Catley-Carlson the opportunity to see first-hand many of the projects CIDA is financing in Thailand and to meet Thai and Canadian personalities actively involved in Thailand's development efforts.

In Bangkok Mrs. Catley-Carlson called on Her Royal Highness Princess Sirindhorn, Prime Minister Prem, Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila, Minister for Science, Technology and Energy Damrong Lathapiphat, and Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Banyat Bantadtan, as well as senior officials connected with development assistance. Dr. Snoh Unakul, Secretary-General of the National Economic and Social Development Board, met with Mrs. Catley-Carlson to review the establishment of the Thai Development Research Institute.

During the course of the visit, Mrs. Catley-Carlson also spent several days in the Northeast, Thailand's least developed area, and the focus of CIDA's rural development efforts in Thailand. In the Khon Kaen area CIDA's President visited a village workers training program and the University of Khon Kaen. In the provinces of Surin and Buriram rural



Mrs. Catley-Carlson is shown greeting Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila at a reception hosted by Canadian Ambassador John L. Paynter.

development projects being implemented by CUSO and UNICEF were visited in addition to His Majesty the King's Project at Lahansai. Mrs. Catley-Carlson also had the opportunity to open officially the CIDA-assisted CBIRD Project. This project is being implemented by the Population and Community Development Association.

Before leaving Thailand, Mrs. Catley-Carlson toured the Asian Institute of Technology located near Bangkok. CIDA assistance in the form of technical assistance and scholarships is being provided to AIT students through CIDA's program of assistance to regional institutions.

Technology Exchange Exhibition Attracts Great Interest

Between May 22nd and 25th, twenty-eight Canadian companies participated in a CIDA-sponsored technology exchange exhibition at the Hilton Hotel in Bangkok. The companies were selected both on the grounds of having appropriate technology and a willingness to enter into joint ventures, licensing agreements or co-production arrangements with Thai companies.

The exhibition was jointly opened by H.E. Flight Lt. Sulee Mahasandana, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office, and Mrs. Margaret Catley-Carlson, President of CIDA.

During the exhibition some 400 Thai manufacturing companies sent one or more of their representatives and met with an average of four Canadian participants. In a space of four days over 1,000 business contacts were made.

While it is too early to record specific results the majority of the Canadian companies reported good potential for some form of joint ventures and many were making tentative plans to return to Thailand under CIDA support in the next few months.

Canada Commits More Funds for International Refugee Program in Thailand

Canada will provide \$2 million for refugee programmes in Thailand, the Honorary Jean Chrétien, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced in Jakarta on 12 July.

The funds will be provided by the International Humanitarian Assistance Programme of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and will be divided evenly between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO).

The Canadian grants will be utilized for relief in the border areas and for the holding camps inside Thailand in the border areas, some 220,000 displaced people from Cambodia are given food, medical assistance and shelter. In the camps, another 128,000 refugees receive basic facilities prior to repatriation or resettlement.

Canada, over the past few years, has contributed \$27.8 million to the international effort to assist these displaced

persons.

Canada will contribute an additional \$110,000 to the continuing international effort to combat acts of piracy committed against Vietnamese refugees in the Gulf of Thailand, former Deputy Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister Allan J. MacEachen announced on 15 June.

The program provides financial assistance to Thailand's government and armed forces to conduct such activities as air and sea patrols.

Since the beginning of the mass exodus of "boat people" from Vietnam in 1978, refugees have been subject to numerous and often brutal attacks in the waters of the Gulf of Thailand.

The Anti-Piracy Program came into effect in June 1982, in response to concerns raised by Canada and other members of the international community about the safety of boat people in the Gulf of Thailand. Canada contributed \$150,000 during the first year of the program.