

Visit of King Hussein

King Hussein of Jordan visited Ottawa from August 6 to 8, on his way to Vancouver, where he was the guest of honour at the opening ceremonies of the Abbotsford International Air Show. The King was accompanied by Queen Alya. While in Ottawa, King Hussein held discussions with Prime Minister Trudeau and the Secretary of State for External Affairs and called on the Governor General.

Sale of valves to U.S.S.R.

A contract covering the sale of \$7,785,000-worth of valves by Velan Engineering of Montreal to Machinimport, a buying agency for the Soviet Union, was signed in London, England in July. Alastair Gillespie, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce announced recently. It is the largest sale of valves from North America to the Soviet Union.

Velan, a Canadian company formed by A.K. Velan in 1951 is Canada's largest valve manufacturer. Some 500 people are employed at its plant in Ville St. Laurent, a Montreal suburb. Last year's exports totalled \$12.8 million.

Possibility of Candu station in New Brunswick

The Atomic Energy Control Board announced recently that it had received an application from the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission for approval of a site near Point Lepreau, New Brunswick for location of a twin-unit Candu nuclear power station. The site is on the north shore of the Bay of Fundy some 24 miles southwest of Saint John. Each unit of the twin-unit station will have a nominal output of 600 megawatts (electric).

The application and its supporting documentation will be reviewed by both the Board's Reactor Safety Advisory Committee (whose membership includes representatives from relevant federal, provincial and municipal government agencies) and by the Board's own staff of nuclear safety engineers prior to consideration by the Board.

Care of war veterans living abroad

Some 7,500 pensioned Canadian war veterans reside outside Canada, mainly in the United States and Britain but also in such other locations as Polynesia, Monaco, Central Africa and South America. S.J. (Bud) Nelson, administrator of the Foreign Relations Division of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and his staff of six, look after their treatment requirements and also are responsible for the medical treatment of veterans from Allied countries who live in Canada. In the U.S., the Foreign Relations Division deals with more than 170 institutions belonging to the U.S. Veterans Administration. In Britain, veterans are contacted through the Department of Health and Social Security.

Although the only country with which Canada has a formal agreement concerning veterans is the U.S., a working agreement exists with Britain, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, which covers medical treatment of veterans on a reciprocal basis. For the last three countries mentioned Canada's DVA looks after their veterans' medical requirements both in Canada and in the U.S. The Division also deals with pensioned veterans from other Allied countries such as the Netherlands and Norway.

Differing regulations

Regulations covering the treatment of veterans in Canada and the U.S. differ in several major respects. For example, a qualified Canadian veteran can emigrate to the U.S., take out American citizenship and still be eligible for Canadian benefits such as pension and medical treatment for a pensionable condition. The reverse situation, however, does not apply.

If an American veteran comes to Canada and takes out Canadian citizenship, he no longer receives medical treatment in Canada at the expense of the U.S. Government. Canadians who served with U.S. Forces in Viet-Nam also find themselves in an awkward position if they require medical treatment for an injury sustained while in the Service. On return to Canada their medical requirements will not be paid for by the U.S. Government because they are Canadian citizens and, since they took part in a campaign in which

Canada was not involved, they are not entitled to medical treatment by DVA. Not only are the regulations covering veterans' benefits different from country to country but, they change frequently.

On behalf of the Canadian Pension Commission, the Foreign Relations Division arranges for Canadian veterans to be medically examined in the country they reside. This determines whether or not a veteran is entitled to a pension. If he is, the CPC will authorize an award of pension, but it remains the responsibility of Bud Nelson and his staff to arrange for the necessary medical or surgical treatment or dental care and any transportation involved. They also arrange for disability pensioners to be examined, periodically, for pension re-assessment purposes. In addition, they arrange for the Commission to receive reports to determine if a pensioner can qualify for an award of Attendance Allowance or Exceptional Incapacity Allowance.

Queries from Canadian veterans living abroad should be directed to the Foreign Relations Division, Department of Veterans Affairs, Ottawa, Ontario.

Some historical dates in July

On July 22, 1793, explorer Alexander Mackenzie reached Dean Inlet on the Pacific Ocean after travelling overland across Canada. On the same date in 1948, Newfoundland voted for Confederation with Canada.

The Lachine Canal, Canada's first step towards opening up the Great Lakes for salt-water ships, was completed 149 years ago on July 23, 1825, after four years of work. The canal, bypassing the rapids immediately upstream of Montreal on the St. Lawrence River, was first planned in 1700 by the French. A shallow canal at Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, was dug in 1798 and in 1841, immediately after the union of Upper and Lower Canada, the Welland Canal past Niagara Falls was modernized. By 1855, steamers drawing 11 feet of water could move from the sea to Lake Superior.

On July 24, 1534, Jacques Cartier landed at the site of Gaspé, Quebec, and claimed Canada for France; and on the same date in 1762, the French captured St. John's, Newfoundland.