

LAPORTE COMMEMORATIVE STAMP



A special issue of 25 million commemorative stamps will be released by the Canada Post Office to honour Pierre Laporte, the former Quebec Labour Minister who was kidnapped and murdered last October by members of the Front de Libération du Québec (FLQ). The 7-cent issue in black and off-white, which will go on sale this month, marks the fiftieth anniversary of the year in which Mr. Laporte was born.

The design for the Laporte commemorative was created by George A. Gundersen of Ottawa from a photograph by Michel Giroux of Montreal.

The name of Pierre Laporte gained unexpected attention round the world when, in autumn 1970, the Quebec Labour Minister met his death at the hands of the terrorist kidnappers. He was abducted on October 10 by members of the FLQ while playing with his son and a nephew in front of his home in St. Lambert, Montreal. Several days later his murder was announced by the FLQ, bringing to an ugly climax the recent escalation of terrorist actions in Quebec and the neighbouring province of Ontario.

CANADIANS IN NATO EXERCISE

The "most realistic manoeuvre of the year" for Canada's NATO forces in West Germany came to a successful conclusion recently, on an extended line a few miles east of the Danube near the city of Ulm, according to the judgment of officials summing up exercise "Gutes Omen" (Good Omen), one of the largest ever conducted by the German Army, involving more than 50,000 ground troops and airmen of the 4th Allied Tactical Air Force.

Three Canadian CF-104 *Starfighter* squadrons based at Baden Solingen, part of 4 ATAF, flew 265 missions in support of the Redland attacking force.

The "Gutes Omen" plot started with the usual conflict between two mythical countries, Redland and Blueland. Canadians were cast in the role of the "bad guys", along with a mountain division of the German Army's 2nd Corps.

Action began shortly after midnight on September 20, when the Canadian battle group spearheaded a thrust on the southern flank of the attacking Blue-landers. For the next 72 hours they fought their way through hilly, tree-covered countryside, grabbing sleep and quick snacks during lulls in the action.

Officials say that the steep, twisting roads criss-crossing the eastern edge of the Black Forest

proved to be "a tough challenge for both men and machines".

The Canadians smashed their way through the last of the opposing defences, and were the first "enemy" forces to reach the Danube and secure a crossing, one of the main objectives of the exercise.

Officials say that, at times, the battle group's advance was so fast and effective that, again and again, "it threw the exercise scenario for a loop". Then, they say, "much to the annoyance of the Canadians", umpires intervened to impose temporary restrictions on movement, to allow the plot to catch up to the action.

A total of 2,600 exercise umpires, wearing white armbands and riding in cars with white crosses, monitored every move of the two forces, "trying hard to keep the game honest".

More than 3,000 tracked and 10,000 wheeled vehicles supported the 50,000 troops, with 82 trains carrying men and equipment to and from the exercise area.

OBSERVERS

During the early part of the manoeuvre the Canadian Minister of Defence, Mr. Donald S. Macdonald, observed the proceedings and spent a day with each of the battle groups and No. 1 Canadian Air Group.

At Baden, the Minister took to the air in a CF-104 *Starfighter* of 421 Squadron, flown by commanding officer Lieutenant-Colonel C.L. Viger. The close air-support mission included low-level attacks against targets of tanks and armour.

Other visitors included the Canadian Ambassador to West Germany, Mr. G.G. Crean, and the German Defence Minister, Mr. Helmut Schmidt. More than 100 reporters, including two from the Soviet Union, covered the progress of the manoeuvre.

YOUTH OPINION ON DEVELOPMENT

"Ninety-seven per cent of Canada's youth favour assistance to developing countries, and nearly half believe that Canada should be giving more. A majority see such assistance not as a political tool but as a humanitarian obligation." These are among the findings of a survey released by the Canadian Council for International Co-operation, under the title *Youth on Development*. It is a sampling of opinion from 2,782 young Canadians between the ages of 15 and 25, who answered detailed questions about Canada's program of sending assistance abroad. The survey, the initial stage of which was commissioned by the Canadian International Development Agency, was carried out by a team of researchers from the Universities of Ottawa, Carleton and Laval, under the direction of Professor A. Schwarz of Laval.

The only survey of its kind in Canada, it was designed to discover what young Canadians know and feel about the issues of world development.