

## Southeast Asia first destination of new External Affairs minister

Jean Chrétien's first official trip abroad as Secretary of State for External Affairs was to Tokyo and Jakarta, from July 9 to 14. Mr. Chrétien, who is also Deputy Prime Minister, assumed his new post in the Cabinet reorganization under Prime Minister John Turner.

First travelling to Tokyo for two days, Mr. Chrétien was received by Prime Minister Nakasone and took part in the annual Canada-Japan Foreign Ministers' Consultations. He went on to Jakarta, Indonesia, to represent Canada at the annual post-ministerial meeting of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) foreign ministers with dialogue partners, from July 12 to 13. ASEAN, which comprises Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Brunei, established relations or "dialogues" with Australia, Canada, the European Community, Japan, New Zealand and the United States.

### Refugee aid

In his introductory remarks to the meeting in Jakarta, the External Affairs minister said that Canada had maintained its policy of accepting substantial numbers of refugees from Southeast Asia, and he announced that Canada would give



*Jean Chrétien, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs.*

\$2 million to refugee programs in Thailand as well as a small amount of non-military assistance to the non-Communist elements in the coalition government.

The Canadian government's intention to create an Asia-Pacific Foundation to develop contacts and expand mutual awareness, said Mr. Chrétien, had become a reality. With

offices in Vancouver, the Foundation will become the "focal point of a broad range of activities aimed at strengthening commercial, developmental, cultural and educational co-operation across the Pacific".

While he was in Jakarta, Mr. Chrétien met with US Secretary of State George Shultz as part of the quarterly consultative meetings between the Canadian and US foreign ministers. Discussions covered key bilateral and multilateral issues and the two ministers agreed to continue the quarterly meetings which had been initiated by former Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan MacEachen and Mr. Shultz.

### Law background

Jean Chrétien, born in Shawinigan, Quebec in 1934, was called to the Bar in 1958 after studying law at Laval University in Quebec City. He was first elected to the House of Commons in 1963 and re-elected in 1965. He has been Minister of State under the Minister of Finance; Minister of National Revenue; Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development; President of the Treasury Board; Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce; Minister of Finance; Minister of Justice and Attorney General; Minister of State for Social Development and Minister responsible for Constitutional Negotiations; and prior to his present portfolio, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

## Hi-tech wheelchair a valuable asset to the handicapped

Comfort, styling, control and performance are all features built into a new wheelchair developed by Fortress Scientific Limited of Downsview, Ontario.

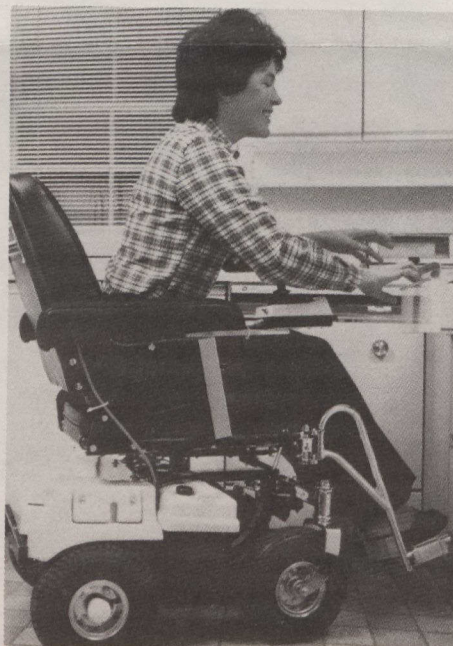
After only two years of operation, the company has already become a recognized leader in powered wheelchair technology with the recent introduction of the 655 FS deluxe powered wheelchair.

Fortress Scientific was established in 1982 to research, develop, manufacture and market innovative health care products and its newest creation, the 655 FS, has met with considerable success. The company is the health care products subsidiary of Northern Fortress Limited, a Canadian-based holding company with diversified interests.

In the early stages of the new wheelchair's development, the company's team of engineers toured abroad, researching state-of-the-art technology and discussing health product requirements with leading doctors, therapists, institutions and users. The result was a fresh approach to product development including a unique

modular design and an advanced power package for the wheelchair.

High torque drive motors with built-in gear box and automatic disc brakes plus a



sophisticated solid-state controller and easy-to-operate joystick control all offer indoor and outdoor versatility and performance.

### Modular approach

The modular approach of a two-piece powered chair allows a range of seats to be fitted easily onto the centre post of the power unit in a matter of a few seconds. Seat options include a range of deluxe reclining seats, standard sling-type seats and children's seats, all with a full 180-degree swivel feature.

The company is currently working with the National Research Council in developing a "total environment control package" to allow the seriously handicapped person the ability to control all the functions of the wheelchair as well as a number of appliances, lights and even the telephone, through a sophisticated transmitter mounted on the wheelchair.

In this stage of robotics, a totally automated environment is possible for the disabled and Fortress Scientific is working to develop software for its product to provide greater independence.

In addition to the 655 FS powered wheel-