

Wife of Canadian PM Visits Refugee Camp

On October 18, 1989, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Mrs Mila Mulroney, wife of Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, visited the Sungei Besi refugee camp near Kuala Lumpur.

The camp is a holding centre for Vietnamese boat people who are being considered for migration visas for third countries. Canada has provided a home for more than 23,500 boat people from Malaysian camps since 1975, including more than 2,400 in 1989.

Mrs Mulroney received a warm welcome from officials of the camp, officials of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society, representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and, above all, from the residents of the camp. During a ceremony, she was presented with a model of a Vietnamese boat and a book of paintings done by camp children.

Later, Mrs Mulroney reaffirmed Canada's continuing commitment to the resettlement of Indochinese residents of Asian refugee camps.

During her tour of the camp, Mrs Mulroney inspected one of four sets of playground equipment donated to the camp under the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives earlier this year. She also presented Certificates of Completion to six graduates of the Canadian Cultural Orientation Program, and met a group of 40 residents on the eve of their departure for Canada.



A warm welcome for Mrs. Mulroney



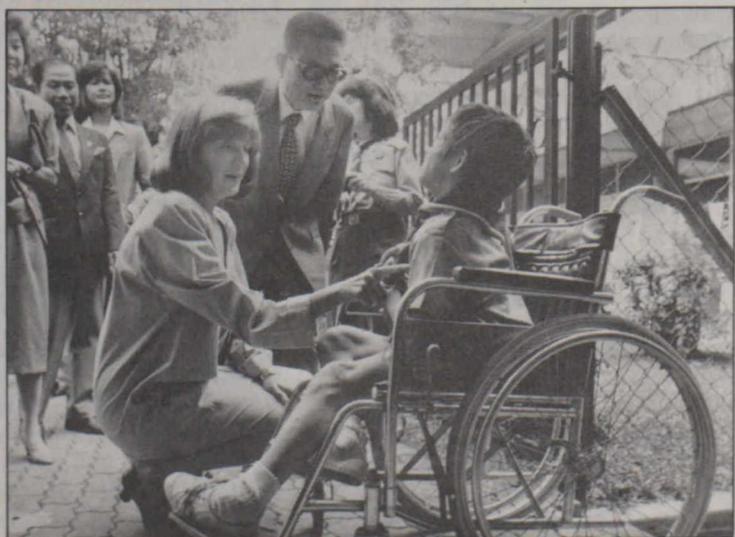
Mrs Mulroney meets some of the residents of the Sungei Besi refugee camp

CANADA DONATES KITCHEN TRAINING UNIT

One of the most touching moments during the events surrounding CHOGM was the series of songs and dances performed by the children of the Spastic Children's Association of Selangor and the Federal Territory in honour of Mrs Mila Mulroney, wife of Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Mrs Mulroney, who is active in similar activities for Canadian children, was at the Centre to officially open a Kitchen Training Unit donated by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives.

The Kitchen Training Unit is designed to assist the children of the Centre to develop basic kitchen skills as part of an overall self-sufficiency program. The Centre, located in Petaling Jaya, a suburb of Kuala Lumpur, is a registered day-care centre and school for children, up to 18 years of age, with cerebral palsy.

The children demonstrated the facilities of the Kitchen Training Unit for Mrs Mulroney, who also visited the Centre's classrooms, sheltered workshop and therapy facilities.



Dato' Lam Peng Chong, President of the Spastic Children's Association of Selangor and Federal Territory, introduces Mrs Mila Mulroney to one of the children of the Centre