

CIDA assistance (Cont'd.)

logy and professional expertise to enable it to provide Landsat data users with imagery that has wide-spread applications for the management and development of natural resources, particularly minerals, forestry, agriculture, water resource management and fisheries.

Value of remote sensing

Few developments have served the primary and resource industries with such versatility as remote sensing information systems. Canada is recognized as a world leader in the field of remote sensing and Canadian companies possess the human and technological expertise for a wide variety of state-of-the-art applications.

Satellite pictures of natural resources are not new. Landsat-1 through 3 could pinpoint mineral deposits, trace the path of pollutants near water and identify various crops. However, until the introduction of Landsat-4, scientists have been unable to interpret the information in pictures of flat, or semi-arid regions and mixed grasslands. Canada, through the program of the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing, has been a leading developer of the required technology in this area of interpretation and Canadian companies have been in the forefront with required hardware and software technology.

Initially, it is hoped that Landsat imagery will play a significant role in forestry management and water resource development. British Columbia is leading the way in applying remote sensing technology to reforestation and forest management, including the monitoring of year-by-year forest changes, mapping and inventory control and monitoring the success of regeneration projects. The identification of water storage basins, water flow data and ground topography will also be vital to the use of water in rural Thailand. The application of Landsat imagery in the fisheries sector, particularly in the fresh-water fishery, is very much related to water control management and discussions are now taking place on the role of this imagery in marine fishery.

Station serves Asian region

With its own funds, Thailand installed the remote-sensing Landsat ground station in 1981, using Canadian high-tech equipment and expertise provided by MacDonald Dettwiler Associates of Vancouver. The station also receives data from two meteorological satellites. The new Landsat-4 satellite necessitates modifications to the computer hardware and software. This upgrade will be provided by CIDA for completion in early 1984. An applications support component consisting of long-term



Mr. André Simard, Chargé d'affaires of the Canadian Embassy, Bangkok, presents Mr. Yothin Tongpenyai with his notification of award as the first candidate under CIDA's new Rattanakosin Scholarship Program with Thailand. Under the program, up to ten Thai award winners will study for advanced degrees in Canada every year in fields of development priority. This year's candidates will study Petroleum Engineering and Forestry Management. The Rattanakosin Scholarship Program for Thailand was announced as Canada's contribution to the Nation's Bicentennial celebrations earlier this year.

New Ambassador to Thailand



Ambassador to Thailand, Mr. John L. Paynter.

advisors, training and other technical assistance for interpretation and application of Landsat data will complete the package.

Since Thailand's Landsat station can cover a wide area from Southern China to Indonesia and from Bangladesh to the Philippines, other countries, particularly ASEAN, will be purchasing services from the Thai station in the above fields. Thailand will thus become an international leader in remote sensing technology and Canada has a long-term commercial partner in this field.

Canada's newly appointed Ambassador to Thailand, John L. Paynter, was born in Victoria, British Columbia, on 11 April 1941. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and International Studies from the University of British Columbia in 1962. He continued his studies from 1962-65, obtaining Masters degrees at both the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Boston and Oxford University in England.

Ambassador Paynter joined the Department of External Affairs in 1966, and has worked in various capacities in headquarters, most recently as Director, General Economic Relations, Finance and Investment Division. His previous assignments overseas were in Moscow, Hong Kong, Beijing and at the UN in Geneva.

Ambassador Paynter was appointed Ambassador of Canada to Thailand, Vietnam and Laos by an Order-in-Council of 11 July 1983. Mr. Paynter is married to the former Ingeborg Jaeger and has three children.

Given his experience and training in both the political and economic areas (including earlier service in Asia) Ambassador Paynter is well suited to expanding the already burgeoning bilateral political and economic relationship between Canada and Thailand.