
Emergency food for Samoa

When the Canadian Forces destroyer HMCS *Restigouche* sailed out of Apia, Samoa in the South Pacific last month, aboard were emergency food supplies for the 700 drought-stricken inhabitants of Niue, a small island approximately 400 miles southeast, where the inhabitants are in the midst of a severe summer drought.

In keeping with the South Pacific humanitarian custom of inter-island co-operation and assistance, the Western Samoan Government initiated a drought relief program but they lacked immediate means of transporting supplies. The presence of the Canadian warship in Apia solved the problem.

After unloading the supplies at Niue, *Restigouche* continued its scheduled operational deployment in the area.

Two other Canadian Forces ships, the destroyer *Kootenay* and the operational supply ship *Provider*, also participated in the deployment and made port visits to Nuka Alofa, Tonga, and Suva, Fiji.

Permanent exhibit to illustrate survival of Acadians

Hugh Faulkner, Minister responsible for Parks Canada, recently announced that the national historic importance of "the survival of the Acadians" is to be commemorated at the original site of St. Joseph College, Memramcook, New Brunswick. The minister has asked that a permanent exhibit (whose form will be discussed by governments and interested organizations) be placed on public display.

Mr. Faulkner said that graduates of St. Joseph College had contributed to the development of the Atlantic provinces and of Canada while helping to preserve the language, culture and traditions of the Acadian people. The college, the first institute of higher education devoted to the Acadian people, was founded by Père Camille Lefebvre, a Quebec priest, who served as its first rector, in 1864.

One of the earliest bilingual schools in Canada, the college was granted a university charter in 1868. It eventually moved to Moncton and became part of the University of Moncton.

History of tribulation

The Acadians trace their presence in the Maritimes to the arrival of settlers from

the west of France at Port Royal, between 1632 and 1635. The newcomers enjoyed a peaceful rural existence until their repeated refusal to swear allegiance to the British, who had gained control of the colony in 1710, led to the expulsion of some 14,000 inhabitants. Property was expropriated, families broken up and dissenters transported to New England. A new understanding with the British enabled many families to return after 1763.

New Brunswick has the largest Acadian population in Canada, though some of its 200,000 French-speaking people are from Quebec. Nova Scotia has about 75,000, Prince Edward Island 15,000, the Gaspé district 40,000 and the Magdalen Islands 7,500.

Home temperature timer

Imagine a computer installed in each home ...in its memory a fuel-saving program set to regulate internal temperatures automatically over the course of a day, cooler at bedtime and warmer during evening hours according to the occupant's needs.

Chris Kirby and Jerry Kathnelson, two National Research Council physicists, recently devised a compact solid state device that performs the same temperature control task as the imaginary computer. Their thermostat timer, no larger than a pocket calculator, is wall-mounted under a conventional thermostat, then programmed by the home-owner to raise and lower room temperature levels at predetermined times during a 24-hour cycle.

"The fact is, some clocks and time switches now available on the market do a similar job," explains Kathnelson, "but most of these are on/off electromechanical devices subject to wear, and with fairly crude time settings. We feel our unit offers greater accuracy and reliability by virtue of its solid state design. Also, it requires no electrical or mechanical connection to the thermostat or heating control system. Installation involves nothing more than mounting and plugging into a wall outlet."

Simple principle

The secret is deceptively simple. In giving a "cool down" command to a thermostat, the timer device generates a small amount of heat. In effect, the home thermostat is deceived by this local rise in temperature, and reacts as if the entire room had been

heated to the same level. Accordingly, it signals the furnace to work less frequently.

"Programming the device is no more difficult than setting a digital wristwatch," adds Kathnelson.

In fact, it takes only the touch of a finger. Commands are given to the unit by simply activating a touch-sensitive switch at the appropriate time of day. Once a 24-hour cycle of instruction has been registered, it becomes locked in the timer's electronic memory. The daily sequence of thermostat deception then continues until the program is altered.

Temperature variation

An added feature is the possible breadth of temperature variation. Users may select temperature increments ranging from 2 degrees Fahrenheit to 10 degrees Fahrenheit (most room thermostats are still calibrated in Fahrenheit). The unit then performs its temperature-varying cycle in multiples of one or two of the chosen increment.

Since each degree of night setback saves roughly 1 per cent over an eight-hour period, annual fuel consumption should be reduced by at least 10 per cent.

For one timer model (projected cost \$30) the programming itself must be performed in real time; that is, a user must register commands at the very hour of the day they are meant to be carried out in future cycles. A newer model currently in the design stage has a liquid crystal clock display and can be pre-programmed at any time. Both models feature an override capability which may be used to eliminate a command temporarily from a daily cycle.

The NRC physicists have filed patent applications for both the thermostat timer design and the unique touch-sensitive switch used in programming it.

EDC assists five countries

The board of directors of the Export Development Corporation has approved loans, insurance and foreign investment guarantees totalling \$135.4 million, involving Brazil, Colombia, Iraq, Mexico and Nigeria.

The transactions involve such goods and services as industrial and consulting engineering services, pre-stressed concrete manufacturing facilities, a construction joint venture, pulp plants, and mining, petroleum and petro-chemical equipment.