

an ambulance for the 10-hour drive to their home in Banská Bystrica.

European Reunion

Early this year, Tourism Canada approached the Force to send a member to the Internationale Tourismus Bourse (ITB), for public relations duties, at West Berlin, Germany. The ITB is a trade fair to promote tourism for various countries. Vadik was asked to represent the RCMP at the fair, which lasted March 4-9, 1989.

Because he was already in Europe, Vadik took advantage of the opportunity to visit relatives in Czechoslovakia. After the ITB, Vadik had 10 days to visit, so of course he contacted Marek's family, but only the day before he went to visit them in Moravia, a six-hour bus ride from where he was staying. When he arrived in Banská Bystrica, Vadik learned that Marek was away on a skiing trip, so the Huzas drove Vadik out to see their son, who couldn't believe his eyes when he saw Joe. Marek's family gave Vadik a

walking cane shaped like an axe, with his name and an inscription on it, to show their gratitude for the Mountie's generosity and friendship toward their son. Vadik spent the evening and the next morning with the family before returning to visit his relatives.

Months after visiting Marek in his own country, Vadik speaks enthusiastically about that special opportunity and the relationship which has developed between him and Marek because of their common heritage, language and love of hockey. ■



Vadik and Marek get reacquainted at Bansk Bystrica, Czechoslovakia.



S/Sgt. Vadik met many representatives of other countries at the W. German ITB, including Chief "Willi", of the Hulli tribe, Papua New Guinea.