

tackled this problem in a unique awareness and sensitivity to the problems and needs of the disabled. This has aroused interest internationally, and has been discussed at a recent UNESCO Round Table. The campaign is an excellent example of co-operation between the Federal Government and the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled (CRCD), a non-governmental organization.

Integration of the disabled implies providing access to the community. While many physical barriers still exist, the Canadian Government has adopted a policy on physical accessibility with regard to federal public buildings. [The year] 1983 is the target date for completion of the program to make federal public buildings accessible to the disabled.

Access to the community also means having available adequate transportation. A federal Advisory Committee on Transportation for the Handicapped has recently been established to advise the Minister of Transport on the needs of the handicapped, and the policies required to meet them. You will be interested to know that I have just come from a conference in Ottawa, organized by Canada's consumer group, The Coalition of Provincial Organizations of the Handicapped (COPOH). The theme of the conference is "Transportation for the Disabled". There has been so much public interest in the hearings that they have been extended a day.

Technical aids

Technology for the handicapped has a high profile in Canada's National Research Council. The NRC has established a rehabilitation technology unit to provide support for product development by establishing the clinical and economic feasibility of a product as well as encouraging industrial participation. The NRC is also involved in the establishment of Technical Aids and Systems for the Handicapped (TASH), a marketing agency in the voluntary sector under the auspices of the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled. Its objective is to market, service, and encourage the Canadian manufacture of aids to the handicapped which are unavailable through other means.

If the status of disabled persons in Canada has improved during the past decade, it is largely due to the disabled themselves, who have taken on an increasingly important and decisive role on

their own behalf. The voluntary sector has also expanded its role as a provider of services and continues to lobby governments at all levels to improve the quality and range of services.

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We are prepared, within the limits of our financial and human resources, to do everything possible to improve the lifestyle of the disabled in Canada and around the world. The proposed leadership role of the United Nations may be crucial for the eventual realization of this objective. It is important that the United Nations itself, as an organization, ensures that its own services and facilities recognize the importance of prevention and integration....

Canadian response to expulsion of defence attaché in Moscow

In response to the Soviet expulsion of Colonel Harold Gold, the Canadian defence attaché in Moscow, the Canadian Government has reduced the official Soviet establishment in Canada by one position and has asked that one official from the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa be withdrawn. Accordingly, V.F. Trofimov, a member of the commercial section, has left Canada.

Secretary of State for External Affairs Flora MacDonald said the Canadian Government's action should not be construed as indicating that Mr. Trofimov was engaged in activities incompatible with his status in this country.

The measures have been adopted solely in retaliation for the unwarranted expulsion of Colonel Gold and in keeping with the warning that was conveyed to the Soviet Ambassador by Miss MacDonald on January 21 when discussing a further Canadian response to any reprisals that might be taken by the Soviets.

Miss MacDonald reiterated that Colonel Gold's expulsion could only have been made in direct retaliation for the recent withdrawal of three Soviet officials (see *Canada Weekly* dated February 6, P. 3). The Soviet officials concerned had clearly engaged in activities incompatible with their status in Canada, she said. This was not the case for Colonel Gold, whose activities were fully in accord with his position as Canadian defence attaché in Moscow. The Canadian Government regards his expulsion as completely unjustified.

Flood warning system developed for Bangladesh

Heavy loss of life caused in past years by storm surges and the resulting flooding of coastal areas of Bangladesh could be substantially reduced in the future as the result of the efforts of a staff scientist at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' Institute of Ocean Sciences, in British Columbia.

Dr. Tadepalli S. Murty, who will act as consultant on a project entitled "Strengthening the Meteorological Services of Bangladesh", will use his experience in mathematical modelling of physical oceanographic problems to improve the weather warning system in Bangladesh. His involvement in the project is the result of a request to Canada from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The project will assess the facilities presently available in that country, initiate a storm surge research program and help to improve the storm surge warning service.

Storm surges (sometimes inaccurately referred to as "tidal waves") are abnormal variations in water levels which can develop in shallow coastal areas as a result of high winds and barometric pressure associated with large-scale weather disturbances, such as cyclones and hurricanes.

In most years several tropical cyclones cross or pass near the Bangladesh coast during the September to December period, often creating dangerously high water levels. If a high tide occurs during such a surge, the resulting effect is devastating floods over large areas of the Bangladesh coast.

The Bangladesh coast is particularly susceptible to storm surges because of the funnelling effect of the triangular-shaped Bay of Bengal and the fact that tides in this area are quite large.

Some of the research for the project will be done in Bangladesh and the remainder at the Institute of Ocean Sciences where high-speed computers are available. Canadian scientists assisting Dr. Murty in the project are Dr. Falconer Henry and Michael Rasmussen.

It is expected that one or two scientists from Bangladesh will spend up to two years at the institute working on statistical models for prediction purposes, and will then return to their own country to implement the warning system.