

MORE AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM

Mr. Paul Martin, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, has announced that Canada is responding to a special appeal for assistance for Vietnamese refugees whose numbers have been swelled by the recent upsurge of terrorism in South Vietnam.

Initially, Canada will supply \$200,000-worth of aid. Of this \$100,000 will be food aid, principally in the form of powdered milk - a food specifically requested by the Government of South Vietnam and the International Red Cross.

RED CROSS PROJECTS

The sum of \$50,000 will be supplied for a refugee project undertaken by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies, involving the supply of medicine, rice sleeping mats, and clothing, to approximately 70,000 refugees in a number of centres. The remainder will be used to offset the cost of sending medical volunteers to South Vietnam for short periods of service. The Canadian Red Cross and the Canadian Medical Association will try to find four surgeons and four orthopaedists, to serve in established hospitals. They will be sent to South Vietnam as soon as they can be recruited, and will be assigned to various hospitals with the assistance of Dr. Alje Vennema, a

Canadian External Aid adviser in Vietnam who has been studying the emergency medical needs.

The appeal for help was sent to a number of Western nations, including Canada. The refugees, 80,000 of whom are in Saigon, need food, medicines, housing materials and blankets, among other things.

This aid is in addition to the current Canadian aid programme for South Vietnam which, for 1967-68, totals \$3 million. Since Canada began its aid programme to South Vietnam in 1953, \$8,300,000 in assistance has been allocated. Projects undertaken include the Quang Ngai medical centre, 350 miles north of Saigon. Because of fighting in the area, the team of Canadian doctors and nurses employed at the hospital have been withdrawn to Saigon, but are returning as soon as conditions become more settled. The hospital has not been damaged. Canada has also sent ten packaged emergency hospital units, which are being used in Vietnamese provincial hospitals, and has recently agreed to send an additional ten units. A polio immunization programme for the children of the country has been undertaken, and Canada has recently agreed to build, equip and staff a rehabilitation centre for the physically disabled at Qui Nhon, approximately 250 miles north of Saigon. There are 225 Vietnamese students currently studying in Canada under the Colombo Plan.

SERVICEWOMEN STYLES ON TRIAL

A new trial uniform will be issued to 20 women in the Canadian Armed Forces late this summer. [See *Canadian Weekly Bulletin*, Vol. 22, No. 45, Nov. 8, 1967]

The test uniform is a medium green, lighter in shade than the trial uniform now being worn by 450 officers and men of the Forces. The single-breasted jacket is semi-fitted and waist-length, with a modified "A-line", pleatless skirt to mid-knee length. The pastel-green blouse of fortrel and cotton has permanent pleats in front. There is no tie or collar tab. Both summer and winter weights will be supplied.

The trial, which will be continued until early 1969, will be carried out by servicewomen at military establishments in Canada and in Europe. The uniform is designed for more than 1,700 women in the Canadian Forces, including nursing sisters. A working dress of pale-green synthetic or blended fabric, unlined, with removable buttons, is provided in addition to the basic uniform.

The hat is dark-green felt with a ribbon round the base of the crown, the colour and width of the ribbon denoting rank.

The overcoat and gabardine raincoat are of the same dark-green colour and cloth as the men's; the accessories are black. Women wearing the trial uniform will be given a collapsible umbrella and a water-proof head-scarf.

Nursing sisters will wear a white-cotton veil on duty, with the working dress, white nylon stockings and oxford shoes. Nursing assistants will wear the working dress without the veil. All other women will wear taupe-coloured stockings and either black oxfords or pumps with the basic uniform or the working dress.

CHILDREN'S DAY-CARE STUDY

The Canadian Welfare Council recently began a national study of day-care services for children, which will cost \$118,000, with the help of a grant from the Welfare Grants Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

Mr. Reuben C. Baetz, executive director of the Canadian Welfare Council, said that the study would take about 18 months to complete and would involve the population of day-care centres in 102 urban communities throughout Canada. Reports which will be of use to agencies planning and working in this field, will be released at regular intervals during the 18 months.

"Our concern," Mr. Baetz said, "is not only for children of working mothers, who are becoming an increasingly-important part of the work force, but also for culturally deprived and disturbed children and more broadly, for the overall strengthening of family life. There is no general perception in this