

Participation in IYDP planned

Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin has announced further details on Canadian participation for the 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP). The plans were announced at the first formal meeting of the Canadian Organizing Committee (COC) held recently in Ottawa.

The Federal Government will provide a special projects fund of \$1 million; 50 per cent of this fund is to be made available to projects or activities managed by the disabled themselves. This fund will be used to provide technical and financial assistance to groups of disabled persons and for initiating services or activities which will provide substantial benefits to the disabled. The fund will also provide financing for projects of exceptional value where existing mechanisms are inadequate or not available, as well as funding for special activities or projects specifically designed to mark the International Year.

In addition, a public information program in support of IYDP will be funded with \$800,000. The objectives of this program will be to create a public awareness concerning disabled persons and the International Year.

A further \$800,000, previously announced, will support the operation of the organizing committee and enable it to develop an IYDP liaison program to encourage groups to become involved in some activity or project to mark IYDP. The Government has also authorized a voluntary contribution of \$100,000 to support the United Nations program for the IYDP.

Miss Bégin has also made public the official logo for the International Year of Disabled Persons in 1981.

The official Canadian logo for IYDP 1981 is based on the original design presented by the French National Commission for IYDP, representing two people holding hands in solidarity and support of each other in a position of equality.

The Minister urged use of the logo whenever possible to help publicize the theme of the Year, "Full Participation and Equality".

The main objectives of the International Year of Disabled Persons are to promote the integration of the disabled into the community and the prevention of disabling conditions.

Refugee agreement signed

The Federal Government has signed a refugee sponsorship agreement with the Czechoslovak National Association of Canada making it easier for local Czechoslovak groups in Canada to help refugees and self-exiled people from Eastern Europe.

"In the past, church and service groups have focused their sponsorship activities on Indochinese refugees; however, the resettlement of Eastern European refugees is equally important," said Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy.

Umbrella agreements increase the potential participation of local groups in the sponsorship program by eliminating much of the time and paperwork involved in handling cases at the local level.

The agreement outlines the responsibilities of both the Czechoslovakian National Association of Canada and its local member groups. Under the 1980 refugee plan 3,400 refugees from Eastern Europe are expected to resettle in Canada.

Canadian agencies give to tool program in Kampuchea

Canadian governmental and non-governmental agencies are helping to provide tools to help Kampuchean farmers as they struggle to feed their families through the coming crucial months.

The over-all project, which is providing 15,000 kits of tools including horse ploughs, ropes and fishnets, and 3,000 tons of rice seed directly to 450,000 farmers at the Nong Chan refugee camp on the Thailand-Kampuchea border, will cost an estimated \$1.9 million. International non-government organizations, led by World Relief, are paying most of the cost, but about 30 per cent of the total will be met by various Canadian donors.

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan has announced that \$300,000 of CIDA funds will be made available for the project through the Voluntary Agricultural Development Aid (VADA) program, a joint effort by the federal and provincial governments to encourage private-sector contributions to the fight against famine in the Third World.

In addition to the contribution from VADA, \$155,000 has been given by the

Research contracts awarded

More than \$1 million in university research contracts will be awarded by the Department of Communications during 1980-81.

Nineteen Canadian universities will receive 45 contracts, averaging \$22,000 each. They will carry out research in support of current federal responsibilities and priorities in the social, financial, regulatory and technological aspects of telecommunications.

Work will include a study of effects of information technology on Canada, analysis of Parliament's objectives and future legislative requirements for the Canadian broadcasting system, and interactive television.

Other areas of study encompass, northern native TV programming, telecommunications needs of the handicapped, office and computer communications, teleconferencing, multilingual broadcasting and a variety of work touching the fields of spectrum management, engineering and communications technology.

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), \$75,000 by the Alberta government, and \$70,000 by other Canadian non-governmental organizations.

Landbridge

The unique project is based on the "landbridge" established at the well-organized Nong Chan camp, where 20,000-30,000 Kampucheans have been coming daily to take back food and rice seed into the northern and western parts of their country. People arriving at Nong Chan are organized into groups of 30, and given an allotment of food and seed.

Previous Canadian assistance to the Kampuchean people has included \$15 million in cash and food aid to support the work of the large international organizations (such as the Red Cross, UNICEF, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) in Kampuchea and Thailand, and more than \$1 million to help finance various efforts by Canadian voluntary agencies, including World Vision of Canada, Canadian University Services Overseas, MCC Canada, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace and Oxfam Quebec.