

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

M'SIAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY GETS ARGOS

At a recent ceremony, the Canadian High Commissioner to Malaysia, H.E. Manfred von Nostitz, handed over two Argo All-Terrain Vehicles to the National Chairman of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society, Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed bin Tunku Besar Burhanuddin. This donation was made possible by financial assistance from the High Commission's Canada Fund for Local Initiatives.

The Argo is known as a "go any-

where" vehicle. It is light, manoeuvrable and completely amphibious, able to function on steep slopes and deep water. These characteristics will make the vehicles a valuable resource for the Red Crescent Society in its rescue and relief operations, particularly during the monsoon season when floods can leave large numbers of civilians stranded and homeless.

In his remarks at the ceremony, High Commissioner von Nostitz drew attention to the Red Crescent Society's exemplary record in providing humanitarian assistance to Malaysians. He noted that this donation would en-

hance the Society's capacity to respond to emergency situations.

Cooperation with Malaysia on humanitarian issues was natural for Canada, he added, because of Canada's international role in this area. He pointed out that Canada is one of the largest donors of humanitarian assistance — the third largest contributor to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the fourth largest to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. The Canadian budget for official humanitarian assistance rose from \$20 million in the 1970s to \$90 million in 1987.

Aid to Displaced Khmers

Again this year the Canadian Government provided \$40,000 in humanitarian assistance to the non-communist factions of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea. The donation, presented by Embassy officials, symbolized the friendship and cooperation between the Canadian and Khmer peoples.

The funds, divided equally between the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) and Sinanouk's followers (Funcinpec), were used to purchase necessary sewing and weaving supplies for workshops that have been established in Site 2 (KPNLF: population approx. 160,000) and Site B (Funcinpec: population approx. 50,000) in Thailand.

This assistance is supplementary to Canada's 1987 contributions of \$1 million to the United Nations Border Relief Organization, and \$700,000 to the ICRC for their activities in providing for the basic nutrition and medical needs of the displaced Khmers along the Cambodian border.



High Commission von Nostitz and Red Crescent representative on a trial run in an Argo.

CANADA-ASEAN NEWS

CANADA'S NEW DIALOGUE PARTNER

Following the July 1988 Bangkok Post-Ministerial Conference involving ASEAN and its dialogue partners, Thailand transferred to Brunei Darussalam the responsibility of acting as coordinating country for the Canada-ASEAN dialogue relationship. This was part of a normal tri-annual rotation of dialogue partner duties within ASEAN.

During the Bangkok meeting, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, mentioned to the Foreign Minister of Brunei Darussalam, HRH Prince Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkihah, that Canada welcomed this development. He expressed the view that this new link between the two countries would provide new opportunities

for further expansion of the bilateral relationship. Areas which show the greatest promise for stronger ties are in the trade, investment and education sectors.

Brunei Darussalam is the third ASEAN country to coordinate for Canada, after the Philippines and Thailand. This coordinating role will coincide with Brunei Darussalam's hosting of the 1989 ASEAN Ministerial and Post-Ministerial meetings to be held in Bandar Seri Begawan. Thus, the Brunei Darussalam connection is becoming an increasingly significant facet of Canada's role and presence in the ASEAN region.