

Defence minister visits Europe

Defence Minister Gilles Lamontagne recently made an eight-nation tour of Europe to meet with military leaders and honour Canadian servicemen buried in Europe.

The minister visited Portugal and Turkey, for meetings with defence officials, toured Canadian forces units in Cyprus, visited the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) at Casteau, Belgium, and headed a Canadian pilgrimage honouring Canadian servicemen to four European countries.

In Portugal and Turkey, Mr. Lamontagne met with Defence Minister Luiz Azevedo Coutinho in Lisbon and President Kenan Evren and Defence Minister Umut Haluk Gayulken in Ankara for briefings on defence-related matters. The defence minister also visited Canadian troops on peacekeeping duty in Cyprus. The "Vandoos" are in the process of replacing the Canadian Airborne Regiment for what will be Canada's thirty-sixth consecutive tour of United Nations duty on the Mediterranean island. He later visited Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe to address the SHAPE Officers' Association. SHAPE celebrated its thirtieth anniversary earlier this year.

The minister then proceeded from Brussels to Rome where he attended a memorial service conducted in memory of Canadians who died during the Second World War. The ceremony held at the Victor Emmanuel Memorial was followed by a commemorative service at the Moro



Mr. Lamontagne views grave of Canadian soldier in Ortona, Italy.

River Canadian War Cemetery where 1,375 Canadian soldiers are buried.

Visited Poland

The Canadian party also travelled to Poland for a three-day visit which included ceremonies held at the symbolic grave of Canadian airmen, a memorial maintained in the heart of Warsaw, and at the Tomb of the Unknown Polish Soldier.

In addition, the delegation held a service at the Old Garrison Cemetery in Poznan. The Canadian airmen buried at Poznan either died in enemy prisoner-of-war camps or were shot down during the summer of 1944 as they attempted to fly

in supplies in support of the Polish Home Army.

The Canadian delegation also visited Prague where a service was held at the Military Cemetery in memory of Canadian soldiers who died in enemy camps in Czechoslovakia. The delegation held a similar service at the Belgrade War Cemetery in the Yugoslav capital. Mr. Lamontagne presented Yugoslav officials with a framed picture of the headstone marking the grave of Major William Jones in Wellandport, Ontario.

Major Jones was parachuted into Yugoslavia in 1943 and became a hero of the partisans. After he died in 1969, the Yugoslav government shipped a special headstone to Canada for use on his grave. Mr. Lamontagne and the delegation also met with leaders of the veteran's groups in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

New northern land policy

The federal government has approved a new policy on northern land use planning, which will help to improve management of land resources in the North.

The policy, to be established by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, will also help resolve conflicting interests of the resource users — native people, developers, conservationists and others in the North-west Territories and the Yukon.

The government will devote \$2 million in 1981-82 to the program and this will rise to \$4 million in 1983-84.

The program will focus immediate attention on priority areas such as the MacKenzie Valley, including Norman Wells. Other areas to be given attention will be that of North Yukon/MacKenzie Delta/Beaufort Sea, Lancaster Sound, MacMillan Pass, and the region south of Great Slave Lake.

Under the new policy, comprehensive land use planning will be conducted through federal land use planning commissions in each territory.

Indian and Northern Affairs Minister John Munro stressed that while land and resource management is primarily a federal responsibility, land use planning requires co-operation and participation by the territorial governments as members of the planning commissions. The planning process will bring together the resource users and the resource managers so as to allow sound planning, minimize conflicts and provide a basis for orderly development, he said.



Turkish President, General Kenan Evren (left) meets with Mr. Lamontagne.