

to Germany and Cyprus, and has met with NATO colleagues in London and Brussels.

Air-sea rescue revamped

Search-and-rescue capabilities were singled out for attention late in the year, with the Government's decision to reinforce men and equipment to cope with marine disasters.

The Armed Forces now are committed to all aspects of search-and-rescue operations in the Canadian areas of responsibility, relating to both sea and air incidents, with access to all Federal Government ships and aircraft earmarked for these roles.

The Government will spend \$8 million immediately to provide more resources for the mission, and as much as \$40 million more may be required for additional improvements in the next two or three years.

Earthquakes

In February, when an earthquake claimed more than 22,000 lives and caused widespread devastation in Guatemala, Canadian Forces' aircraft flew supplies to the stricken areas. Tons of powdered milk, medical supplies and blankets were moved during a week-long, round the clock venture by *Boeing* and *Hercules* transport aircraft.

In early May, earthquakes struck again, this time in northern Italy. A



Combat Medical Support Unit from Lahr, West Germany, give an anti-typhoid vaccination to an Italian child during earthquake relief operations in northern Italy.

total of 300 Canadian troops from their base in Lahr, West Germany, were rushed by air and road to the scene.

For a month they assisted Italian authorities in keeping order, clearing debris and providing food and water.

One Canadian lost his life in the operation when his helicopter crashed.

Olympics

As the attention of Canadians, and most of the world, was drawn to the thrills of the mid-summer Olympic Games, the spectacle, by then, was the culmination of months of planning and work by thousands of members of the Armed Forces. It was the biggest military undertaking by Canadians since the Korean operations in the early 1950s.

About 16,000 uniformed men and women were directly involved in a variety of roles vital to the success of the Games — both at centre stage and behind the scenes — in Montreal, Kingston, and other sites.

Air and road transport, logistics, medical support, security and spectator-control were some of the more visible missions. Hundreds of others, including defence civilian employees, laboured months in advance behind the scenes.

When it was all over, a general message to the Forces said they had reached another plateau in service to the country, and that it was not by chance that the spectacle was carried off with the absence of violence.

North of 60

Meanwhile, far removed from hectic Olympic activities, it was business as usual for other sailors, soldiers and airmen assigned responsibilities in Canada's far North.

The Arctic, to some a land of sturdy flowers and smiling Inuit children, is something else to Canadian servicemen who fly there, work and live there, for months at a stretch.

Apart from being a busy jumping-off place for military training exercises, the North is where military engineers, map-makers, defence scientists and radio and radar technicians, and others through the years, have helped carve inroads for other Canadians to follow.

A fearsome prospect for the Forces is the possibility of a major airline disaster in the North's inhospitable stretches of tundra, snow and ice.



A woman officer directs air traffic from the control tower at Canadian Forces Base, Edmonton, Alberta.

Training in emergency rescue procedures continued in 1976 in exercises such as Northern Rescue, where servicemen camped out in frigid temperatures to test their para-rescue teams. Assessment and evaluation of rescue procedures in the North is an ongoing project.

Canadian soldiers also resumed training in Exercise Northern Viking, designed to sharpen skills for living, working and fighting in the Arctic.

A new twist was added last year by building and equipping survival cairns near northern airstrips. The cairns contain tents, stoves, food and equipment for emergency use.

Sited to be conspicuous from all directions, each displays a sign in English, French and in Indian and Inuit dialects.

Meanwhile, down in semi-tropical Florida, U.S.A., Canadian Forces search-and-rescue specialists were busy demonstrating their skills and, in a four-day competition involving specialists from both the United States and Canada, they walked off with top honours.

Lost, found and confused

Search-and-rescue statistics for the first nine months of the year show that the Forces' four rescue co-ordinating centres across the country reported a total of 5,814 incidents. Of these, 1,919 were classified as air, 3,244 as marine, 584 as humanitarian and 67 of