



Photo by: A. Inkpen

Weaving Thai silk.

leave the market open to less industrialized countries.

The study found that North American protectionism is much less extensive in the consumer electronics industry (which includes the manufacture of radio and stereo equipment, television sets, watches and calculators). Only colour television imports have captured enough of the North American market to provoke strong protectionist measures, according to the project research paper by Harvard University's Glenn Jenkins.

Of those countries included in the study, only South Korea's colour TV industry has been significantly affected by North American trade barriers, specifically quotas in the U.S. and higher tariffs in Canada.

In the case of the vegetable oil industry, the third industry covered by the study, the researchers found that protectionism was not a major problem.

The study results will be widely circulated to academics and government officials in developing and developed countries alike. The hope is, says Mr. Williams, that it will help policymakers to understand how protectionism has affected their industrial development.

*Prepared by Rhoda Metcalf for the July 1987 issue of IDRC Reports.*

## Commonwealth session in K.L.

Canadian delegates to the 33rd Commonwealth Conference, held in Kuala Lumpur in September, described their experience as a useful opportunity for parliamentarians from the 48 Commonwealth countries to discuss common international problems in a relaxed atmosphere.

Canadian delegates took an active part in discussions which included: Commonwealth co-operation with respect to inadequate housing; the effect of world trade and protectionism on economic development in Third World countries; how the Commonwealth could co-operate to combat the AIDS threat; and the role of television and the print media in promoting respect of Parliament and an understanding of parliamentary democracy.

A highlight of the Conference was the address by Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir in which he reaffirmed the usefulness of the Commonwealth and the values for which it stands.

# Exporting more fish to Canada

In an effort to help Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia export more fish to Canada, an inspection team of eight fish inspectors spent a month visiting 21 fish processing plants in the three countries.

## Improve processing

After the Canadian officers toured the fish processing plants, they provided each plant operator with written reports on processing practices which might be modified in order for the plant to produce top quality fish or seafood products which would meet international standards. By improving processing procedures, the plants will be able to export more products to not only Canada, but also other countries.

Following the plant tours, the inspectors conducted seminar programs that were specifically geared to address processing problems they detected in the various facilities visited.

One of the most illustrative sessions of

the mission's seminar program was the sensory evaluation workshop. Samples of canned tuna along with photographs of the raw fish prior to canning were provided to demonstrate the Canadian Tuna Standard. Tuna producers were asked to relate the raw material freshness indicators (gills, eyes, skin colour, and belly cavity condition) to the finished canned product standard.

## Provide understanding

In the Thailand seminar, crab and shrimp samples were graded to provide the industry with an understanding of the Canadian Crab and Shrimp Standard.

Some fish producers brought samples of their companies' product to the seminar for evaluation. These samples were examined by the inspectors and reasons for acceptance or rejection were outlined.

A seminar program of plant visits and seminars is planned for the Philippines and Singapore in November.



*Y.B. Datin Paduka Rafidah Aziz, Malaysian Minister of Trade and Industry, arriving at the opening of the Seminar on Canadian Health and Sanitary Regulations Governing Seafood accompanied by High Commissioner von Nostitz.*