

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Health is more than the absence of disease. It is a basic human right. The Canadian High Commission in Malaysia, through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, continues to place a high priority on providing assistance to projects that provide primary health care services. One such donation is the mobile medical health van presented recently to the Sathya Sai Central Council of Malaysia, Perak Region.

The Canada Fund contributed \$30,000 to purchase a 15-seat van with structural additions, a tent, and portable medical and dental equipment. Not only does the vehicle play an important role in transporting volunteers and equipment, it is uniquely fitted with additional structures which were designed locally and allow for a make-shift dispensary and clinic. The van will be used in remote areas, particularly in Perak and the northern regions of Malaysia, where there may not be a community hall or other suitable building.

The mobile health van was officially handed over in Ipoh at the World Handicapped Day Sports Fair, organized by the Sathya Sai Central Council of Malaysia, Perak Region. A total of five schools for the handicapped, involving some 100

Further Assistance from Canada for Earthquake Relief in the Philippines

Canada was among the first countries to respond to the relief and emergency efforts launched by private and government agencies in the Philippines in the wake of the earthquake which hit northern Luzon on July 16, 1990. Grants amounting to more than \$500,000 supported the relief operations of a wide range of Philippine non-governmental organizations. Most of this assistance was channelled through the Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief agency based in Toronto to PHILDRRA and to the Inter-Agency Network for Disaster Response, a grouping of non-governmental organizations coordinated by the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP). These grants were used for medicines, shelter materials, water supplies and other goods needed to support the earthquake victims. Similar assistance on a smaller scale was channelled to the relief efforts of Emmanuel International.

This Canadian assistance consisted of several grants from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), totalling \$350,000. Other official assistance included \$100,000 from the Province of Ontario to the Philippine National Red Cross and \$3,500 in direct assistance from the Canadian Embassy. Above and beyond this official effort, Canadian non-governmental organizations sent over \$70,000 to support the relief efforts of their partners in the Philippines.

children, took part in the one-day sports fair.

The mobile health van is the second vehicle presented from the Canada Fund to the Sathya Sai Central Council of Malaysia. The success of the earlier project and the fact that the second vehicle will allow the expansion of the program to a wider area prompted the High Commission to

consider the project favourably.

The Council President, Mr Jegathesan, thanked the High Commission and commented that the first vehicle has been instrumental in facilitating its health programs in the central and southern regions of Malaysia. It is estimated that over 9,000 people in the rural areas have benefitted from the program in the last two years.

TRADE

General Motors Canada Concludes Sale of Ten Locomotives to Malaysia

On August 30, 1990, General Motors Canada signed a contract for the supply of ten shunting locomotives and parts, valued at \$21.3 million, to the Malayan Railway Administration (KTM). This is a repeat order, following the sale of two first locomotives last year.