

and child were rushed to the base hospital for the normal post-natal period of observation.

One week later the Ha family boarded a commercial flight which took them to their new home in Calgary, Alberta, where they were met by their Canadian sponsor Mr. David Rowan and the Canadian Minister of Immigration Mr. Lloyd Axworthy.

## Refugee Relief Provided by CIDA

THE Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is contributing \$1.15 million in cash to international relief organizations for humanitarian assistance to refugees in Southeast Asia, acting CIDA President Margaret Catley-Carlson has announced.

A grant of \$500,000 is going to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to help pay for chartering an aircraft to shuttle relief supplies between Bangkok in Thailand and Phnom Penh in Kampuchea. Another \$500,000 will be granted to UNICEF towards its relief activities in Kampuchea and in refugee camps in Thailand.

The remaining \$150,000 will be provided in response to a joint appeal by the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies for relief operations among the more than 220,000 Indochinese refugees from Vietnam and Laos scattered throughout countries of first asylum in Southeast Asia. The new grants bring the total given by Canada for relief in Southeast Asia to \$18.5 million, including more than \$1 million in provincial and private donations.

## Kampuchean Relief One Year Later

IN OCTOBER, 1979, the international community began a massive operation to deliver urgently needed humanitarian assistance to the Kampuchean people. Although there are indications the worst of the crisis may now be over, and the international media have moved on to other issues, there will be a continuing need for international relief until the underlying political conflict is resolved. Canada has been an active partner with the ASEAN countries in the search for a durable political solution in Kampuchea. At the same time, the government of

Canada (the fourth largest national donor) and individual Canadians have been major contributors to the relief effort.

During the past year international attention has tended to focus on the often controversial relief operation based in Phnom Penh, which has sometimes overshadowed the importance of relief operations in Thailand. Over 150,000 Kampuchean who fled famine and war in their own country have been granted temporary refuge in Thailand. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the World Food Program (WFP) and dozens of private humanitarian agencies still face the challenge of housing and feeding these people. An equal number of Kampuchean are living in makeshift communities straddling the border of Thailand, and they too have a continuing need for food and medical care. Thousands of Kampuchean still walk distances as far as hundreds of kilometres to obtain relief supplies via the "landbridge" operation at the border. Most of the food and seed rice reaching western Kampuchea during the past year has come from this source. Thailand, as host to Kampuchean requiring and agencies supplying relief, has had to contend with associated problems, including the resettlement of thousands of Thai villagers affected by the Kampuchean crisis and the influx of displaced persons. Relief agencies and bilateral donors alike have been devoting increasing attention to helping Thailand shoulder this additional burden.

Canadians have been involved in all aspects of the relief effort in Thailand. In early October, Canada's former Secretary of State for External Affairs the Honourable Flora MacDonald visited the border area to inspect projects and meet with Canadian volunteers and Thai refugee officials. Miss MacDonald visited Khao I Dang refugee camp and observed the tumultuous scene at Ban Nong Chan where 13,000 ox carts thronged the camp on October 1 for the largest single feeding operation since the inception of the landbridge. She also visited Kab Cherng camp in Surin province to witness at first hand the results of Canada's contribution. In addition she met with volunteers from the Canadian University Services Overseas (CUSO) who, in co-operation with several Thai agencies, are responsible for the administration of what many consider to be a "model" refugee camp.

## Alberta Assists Thailand

THAILAND is one of some 60 countries in which the province of Alberta, Canada, has funded development projects. About \$1.3 million has been spent in Thailand alone over the past five years.

The Honourable Mary Lemessurier, Minister of Culture who administers the program, visited Thailand during the first week of December, 1980, to inspect Alberta-funded projects and explore possibilities for future assistance. She spent most of her time in Thailand assessing first hand the needs of the rural population in the northeast. She toured a school for the blind, public health projects and integrated village development sites representative of the many projects currently supported by her province. Mrs Lemessurier also visited refugee settlements on the Thai-Kampuchean border, and a new village for Thais displaced by the Kampuchean conflict. To date, Alberta has donated over \$1 million for refugee relief.

In summing up her visit, the Minister confirmed that Alberta support for Thailand would continue to be built on the successes she had seen. She noted that in the future the Alberta government would also explore provision of technical assistance and training fellowships in sectors where Albertan expertise could be matched with Thai development needs.

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**For further information on material contained in this publication please contact the nearest Canadian diplomatic mission.**

### Thailand:

Canadian Embassy, Boonmitr Bldg.,  
138 Silom Road, Bangkok 5.  
Tel. 234-1561,-8.

### Indonesia:

Canadian Embassy, Wisma Metropolitan,  
Jl. Jendral Sudirman, Jakarta.  
Tel. 584030,-9.

### Malaysia:

Canadian High Commission, American  
International Assurance Bldg.,  
Ampang Road, Kuala Lumpur,  
Tel. 89722,-3,-4.

### Philippines:

Canadian Embassy, PAL Bldg., Ayala  
Ave., Makati, Rizal. Tel. 87-87-46.

### Singapore:

Canadian High Commission, Faber  
House, 230 Orchard Road, Singapore  
0923. Tel. 737-1322.