

## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



*Datin Khariah Khairuddin, Project Coordinator at the SKOSS batik training workshop, briefing High Commissioner Garrett Lambert on the batik production process.*

# Batik Training for the Socially Handicapped

The next time you are tempted by one of the colourful hand-painted batik T-shirts offered by Malaysia Airlines' in-flight shopping service, you might want to keep in mind that your purchase will assist more than the airlines' corporate profits. The shirts are one of the many products of the batik training workshop of the Sang Kancil Organization of Social Services (SKOSS).

The setting up of the training workshop in Petaling Jaya, just outside Kuala Lumpur, was partially funded by the Canadian High Commission's Canada Fund. A grant of \$27,689 has facilitated the establishment of this centre to train physically and socially handicapped persons in basic batik making. The trainees, the majority of whom are women, also undergo a small business operations course.

In the long term, the project is aimed at enabling trainees to set up their own home-based batik industries, to make individual and group presentations on the craft, as well as to join vocational schools as trainers.

SKOSS used the Canada Fund contribution to purchase batik-making equipment, make some structural improvements to the workshop, and publish training manuals. This equipment will help enable the workshop to become self-supporting, through the sale of their products, which include, in addition to T-shirts, batik cloth lengths, scarves, wall-hangings and household items.



## All-Terrain Vehicles in Disaster Relief

The Canadian built all-terrain vehicle, ARGO, has proved invaluable in providing disaster relief during the Malaysian monsoon season. Last year, the Canadian High Commission donated two of the vehicles to the Malaysian Red Crescent Society to increase the society's disaster preparedness capacity.

Malaysia experiences severe monsoon seasons at least twice a year, and the monsoon of late 1988 were particularly severe. Our photograph shows one of the ARGOS at work, evacuating children from a school near Kuala Lumpur which was inundated by flash floods.



## CANADIAN APPLES BRING CHEER

B.C. Fruits Ltd, Canada's leading apple grower, was recently in Manila to distribute 100 cases of B.C. Royal Canadian Brand Delicious apple to the Council of Welfare Agencies Foundation and two other non-governmental organizations working with children, Anak and Kaibigan. On hand to assist B.C. Fruits President Jamie Kidston was Mrs Jennifer Davidson, wife of the Canadian Ambassador the Philippines.