

Reconstruction in Honduras — Canada planning to help

The emergency-relief phase of Canadian aid to Honduras has been concluded and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is now shifting to a longer-range program of aid towards reconstruction, Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen, said October 31.

Hundreds died, countless others lost their homes and the country's multi-million dollar banana crop was ruined when Hurricane Fifi struck Honduras on September 18.

A team of CIDA representatives went to Honduras in November to discuss with government officials how Canada's normal bilateral development assistance could be reoriented and, if necessary, expanded to fit in with Honduras' own reconstruction plans, the Minister said.

Canadian assistance to Honduras before the hurricane struck consisted mainly of two marketing studies, one in agricultural products, the other in hardwood.

Four jeeps used in these projects were put at the disposal of the authorities during the emergency and one of the CIDA advisers in Honduras, Brian Salt of Burlington, Ontario, was able to provide vital communications with his ham radio equipment.

The Canadian Government, through CIDA, has provided \$500,000 for Honduran relief. Of this sum, \$90,000 was contributed to the League of Red Cross Societies through the Canadian Red Cross Society. The rest was transmitted to the United Nations Development Program for distribution among recognized international and local Honduran agencies.

Food, clothing and medical supplies gathered by a number of non-governmental agencies in Canada were taken to Honduras by a Canadian Forces aircraft September 27. A second airlift took place October 25.

"The immediate requirements for goods have now been met, but the international agencies active in Honduras still need funds to purchase such things as agricultural implements, seeds and seedlings, insecticides, vehicles and house-building tools, and to pay the salaries of experts needed to mount an effective program," said Mr. MacEachen.

Wagon-top performances at Stratford

The Conestoga wagon, or Prairie Schooner, as it was sometimes called, is going to be back in fashion next year, and its appearance in the age of the automobile has nothing to do with the energy crisis. It will make a comeback as a mobile stage for use by the Stratford Festival company.

Jeffrey Sisco is designing a copy of the Conestoga wagon as a prop for *Comedy of Errors* but it will serve a double purpose during the season. Members of the Acting Company will perform on it at schools, playgrounds, hospitals and other locations in the Stratford region. The wagon can open out into a stage, with lights, platforms, props and sound facilities that can be set up easily in outdoor locations for presentation of special programs.

The Conestoga wagon appeared in the Conestogo Valley of Pennsylvania, U.S., in 1755. Owing to the wagon's excellent design (the floor slanted downward towards the middle in case the load shifted, and the box was watertight for crossing rivers), the name became famous across the North American continent.

The heavy wagons, each with a high, white homespun cover and a six-horse team, were about 14 feet long, three-and-a-half feet wide and had a box the depth of four feet.

During the years 1796 to 1812, when thousands of Pennsylvania Dutch settlers immigrated to Upper Canada, they travelled by Conestoga wagon.

Many families settled in what is now called the district of Kitchener-Waterloo in Ontario.

Jeffrey Sisco, of the Stratford Festival Company, designed this model of a Conestoga wagon, from which one will be built for performances by the Acting Company in the Stratford region next season.



Royal couple guests of Winter Fair

Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips ended a short, private visit to Ontario on November 18 with a final look at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto, which the princess had opened on the day of their arrival, November 15.

The royal pair, who were the guests of the Winter Fair, attended the event three times; Princess Anne presented some of the awards.

The visit, their second to Canada

since their marriage a year ago, included an invitation by E.P. Taylor, industrialist, to his estate in Oshawa, a flight over Niagara Falls, a trip to Hamilton, a horseback ride on the grounds of Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Baker's Northcliffe Farms and a private dinner given by Mr. and Mrs. Eric Phillips in Toronto. They also attended a reception for members of the press and a dinner for international competitors at the Fair, as well as watching the Fairbank Stakes at Greenwood race track.