

Olympic gold medallist

Kathy Kreiner, an 18-year-old skier from Timmins, Ontario, won Canada's gold medal at the twelfth Olympic Winter Games on Friday, February 13 — the luckiest day of her life. She won the women's giant slalom event — 1,225 metres — in one minute 29.13 seconds, just 12-100ths of a second ahead of Rosi Mittermaier of West Germany, who was rated favourite for the race. Third was Danièle Debernard of France, whose time was 1:29:25.

One other Canadian, Nancy Greene Raine, won the same event at Grenoble, France, in 1968.

"I attacked the course hard," said Miss Kreiner after the race, "but perhaps some of the other girls went at it too hard." Her only previous victory in a major race was at Pfronten, West Germany in 1974. She started to ski when she was three years old and entered competition at age seven. At 14 she competed in her first World Cup event and, at the Winter Games in Sapporo, Japan in 1972, she placed 14th in the slalom and 33rd in the downhill.

Kathy Kreiner's win was a surprise and was probably one of the major upsets of the Games. Canadian Alpine team manager Luc Dubois had been confident that she would do well but said that her victory was still a "major upset".

Speed skater Cathy Priestner of Calgary, Alberta, won a silver medal for



UPI photo

Canada's Kathy Kreiner (right) triumphant winner of the Olympic giant slalom event at Innsbruck, February 13, 12-100ths of a second ahead of Rosi Mittermaier (left) of West Germany.

Canada and figure skater Toller Cranston of Toronto, won a bronze.

Winning an Olympic gold medal has entitled Kathy Kreiner to membership into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame. In a telegram to Miss Kreiner following her win, the chairman of the Board of Governors of the Hall of Fame, Harry Foster, said: "Your accomplishment sheds much lustre in your own name and that of Canada in the world of skiing. We honour you with instant membership into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame."

Continued U.S. presence at Goose Bay

The Canadian Government has agreed in principle to a request of the Government of the United States to retain a small military unit at Goose Bay, Labrador in Newfoundland, when the USAF Strategic Air Command Wing there is withdrawn later this year.

Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan MacEachen stated on January 28 that this new USAF unit would maintain aircraft servicing and fuelling facilities for daily transit and support the activities of NATO and NORAD in times of emergency. The detailed arrangements to govern the presence of this unit will be set out in an agreement to be worked out by representa-

tives of interested agencies of the two governments.

The new unit at Goose Bay will probably consist of about ten USAF personnel and the major support requirements will be met by a civilian contractor. The contractor may employ from 50 to 100 Canadian civilians to perform such tasks as aircraft servicing, maintenance, refuelling-system maintenance and supply support.

Details of the contractual arrangements will be determined over the coming months. Other services required will be negotiated with Canadian Government departments at Goose Bay, i.e. the Ministry of Transport, the Department of Public Works and the Department of National Defence.

Toxic pollutants breakthrough

A new advance in the fight against a family of hazardous chemicals was announced this month by Environment Canada.

The discovery of a scientific technique for rendering polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) virtually harmless may also help answer environmental problems related to a whole range of other persistent toxic chemicals currently plaguing the industrialized world.

Dr. Dickson Liu, a research scientist at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters in Burlington, Ontario, who was responsible for the discovery, says it involves a newly-developed strain of bacteria and a special technique for providing them with access to the hitherto almost indestructible compound.

These chemicals were, until recently, widely used as heat transfer fluids and in paints, inks and copying papers. These chlorinated organic substances, highly valued for their insulating qualities and their insolubility, have become a tremendous environmental liability, because they do not break down, even over many decades.

Also, new toxicological data evaluated by scientists at the Health and Welfare department indicate that these chemicals may be hazardous to health. The Health Protection Branch of Health and Welfare Canada, in consultation with the Fish Inspection Branch of Environment Canada, recently established a temporary guideline of two parts per million maximum for PCBs in the edible portion of fish.

Environment Canada states that the value of the discovery is likely to be in treatment of PCB-rich industrial wastes and in disposing of such things as transformers which contain the chemical. The new technique may not answer the problem of PCBs already in the environment nor be applicable to diffuse sources in which the pollutant has already been mixed with other effluents.

Technique

The oily PCB material is highly insoluble in water and thus its carbon content remained largely inaccessible as a food source for bacteria. Dr. Liu reasoned that the solution might be found through increasing the PCB-to-