

VISA AGREEMENT

A visa modification agreement between Canada and Portugal, signed on January 24, 1958 in Lisbon by Dr. Paulo Cunha, the Portuguese Foreign Minister and Dr. Philippe Panneton, Canadian Ambassador to Portugal, will come into force on February 15, 1958.

Under the terms of the agreement, Canadian citizens holding valid Canadian passports may visit continental Portugal and Madeira Islands for periods not exceeding two consecutive months without obtaining Portuguese visas. Reciprocally, Portuguese citizens holding valid Portuguese passports desiring to enter Canada temporarily will be issued non-immigrant visas gratis valid for an unlimited number of entries into Canada during a period of twelve months from the dates of issue of such visas. It is expected the agreement will facilitate travel between Canada and Portugal.

Canadians now are permitted entry without visas to Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey. In addition agreements have been entered into with Finland, Ireland, and Japan under which Canadian citizens are granted visas free of charge.

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MISSION TO WEST INDIES

Mr. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce, announced last week that a representative mission is proceeding to The West Indies to further the utilization of Canadian flour in that market.

The mission is headed by George H. McIvor, Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board. The Canadian milling industry is represented by E. J. Wolff, Chairman, the Canadian Flour Export Committee, and D.M. Hunter, President, the Ontario Flour Millers Association. The Department of Trade and Commerce is represented on the mission by C.M. Isbister, Assistant Deputy Minister.

In addition to Mr. McIvor, the Canadian Wheat Board is represented by C.B. Davidson, Executive Assistant. The mission will be assisted in The West Indies by R.W. Blake, Canadian Government Trade Commissioner, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, and H.E. Campbell, Canadian Government Trade Commissioner, Kingston, Jamaica.

The West Indies normally imports over 5 million bushels of wheat in the form of flour, and constitutes one of the most important outlets for Canadian flour. The mission is particularly timely in view of the recent formation of the West Indies Federation.

At the conclusion of its work in The West Indies, the mission will visit other flour markets in the area.

PORTS OF CALL

Saigon, Hong Kong and Tokyo are among the ports to be visited by five Canadian destroyer escorts now on an 11-week Pacific training cruise.

The warships are units of the Second Canadian Escort Squadron and include Canada's three newest St. Laurent class destroyer escorts, the Fraser, Skeena and Margaree, all commissioned during 1957. The other two are HMCS Crescent and HMCS Cayuga. The squadron is under the command of Captain M.G. Stirling, of Kelowna, British Columbia, in the Crescent.

The exercises will include two convoy exercises and associated anti-submarine warfare training while en route to the Far East and during the return. They will be carried out with United States Navy units and under USN direction.

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PPCLI BAND HONOURED

The Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Military Band, serving in West Germany with the 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group, received the keys to the German city of Munster on February 8.

The 40-man band, under the command of Lt. Herbert A. Jeffrey, of Toronto, took part in a three-day sports and music festival at the Munster Police School. During the festival, the brilliant musical group was featured at three evening performances and a matinee. Presentation of the keys to the city were made by the Oberburgermeister (Mayor) in the Munster Arena.

Munster, a university city with a population of 158,000, is the home of the West German National Police School.

Also taking part in the festival were bands from the United States Army, the Seaforth Highlanders of the British Army, and bands from Germany and Belgium.

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TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE

Field defence problems, common to the armies of three NATO countries, are being discussed at a Tripartite Conference at the Royal Canadian School of Military Engineering, Chilliwack, British Columbia, February 11-14.

Civilian scientists and senior officers of the United States, United Kingdom and Canadian Armies are taking part in the discussions which will cover many aspects of field defences in modern warfare.

This is the first conference of its kind on this subject, and is being held at Chilliwack because Canada is the nation sponsoring tripartite investigation of this problem. Aim of the session is to exchange information, investigate problems and co-ordinate tripartite activity in this field.