

MEDICAL MISSION TO EASTER ISLAND

It was announced recently by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Paul Hellyer, that his department would participate with an international group of scientists in a fact-finding medical mission to Easter Island, to be undertaken with the consent and co-operation of the Government of Chile.

The Royal Canadian Navy repair ship HMCS "Cape Scott" will be made available to take the expedition to Easter Island in December 1964. The Easter Island Expedition Society will obtain data on the distribution of disease and hereditary factors in the population of the isolated South Pacific island. Sponsored initially by the World Health Organization, the expedition forms part of the Human Adaptability Project of the International Biological Programme.

The expedition is being undertaken by staff members of six Canadian universities, with the participation of scientists from Chilean, British, United States and Scandinavian medical schools. The Canadian universities to be represented are McGill University, Montreal; the University of Montreal; Dalhousie University, Halifax; the University of Toronto; the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg; and the University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Some 25 scientists will take part, under the general supervision of Professor Stanley C. Skoryna, Director of the Gastro-Intestinal Research Laboratory and Associate Professor at McGill. Dr. H. Locke Robertson, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill, is president of the Easter Island Expedition Society. Never before has such a survey been undertaken by Canada on so large a scale. It will last about two months.

Four medical teams will examine the population of 1,200 and collect biological samples. In addition, several scientists will be in charge of specialized studies in epidemiology, bacteriology, genetics, hematology, sociology and anthropology.

RCR IN DUTCH MEMORIAL MARCH

From July 28 to 31, citizens of the ancient city of Nijmegen, Holland, renewed their acquaintance with the famous "Red Patch" worn by Canadian soldiers during two world wars, when a 37-man team from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, represented Canada's NATO brigade in the internationally-known "Nijmegen marches".

The marches, designed to encourage participants to train in such a manner that they can walk a considerable distance with the minimum of fatigue, are sponsored by the Royal Netherlands League for Physical Culture. The starting point is in Nijmegen itself, the route winding its way through the picturesque network of roads and canals surrounding the 1,850-year-old city. Military entrants must cover 25 miles a day carrying a minimum of 22 pounds, while civilian marchers, because of their lighter dress, are required to cover 30 miles a day.

Corporal Bill Toombs, of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, followed the troops on a bicycle pulling a trailer loaded with first-aid equipment, water and fruit juices.

On the third day of the marches, the RCR squad stopped at the town of Groesbeek, where they were joined by the battalion Corps of Drums. Together, they participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Canadian War Cemetery, located on the highest of seven hills in the area, with an open view of the Reichswald and Rhineland. Three thousand white crosses indicate the graves of as many Canadian soldiers, killed during the liberation of Holland in the Second World War.

OTHER AID PROJECTS

During the last fiscal year, 47 Canadian teachers and advisers served in Malaysia under External Aid Office arrangements, a larger number than in any other Colombo Plan country. Educational projects sponsored by Canada apart from the vocational-training programme included assistance in establishing a School of Business Administration at the University of Malaya with the co-operation of staff from the University of British Columbia. The number of Malaysian trainees brought to Canada under Canadian Government auspices is increasing; there were 134 in the last fiscal year. The Malaysian National Television project, for which Canada is providing consulting engineering services as well as technical assistance, is scheduled to be completed later this year and will provide the Federation with an important educational medium.

Since the Colombo Plan began in 1951, Canada has made available to the states that federated to form Malaysia development assistance totalling \$14.05 million, in the form of capital projects and technical assistance.

VOCATION-TRAINING EQUIPMENT TO MALAYSIA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, announced recently that Canada would this year give vocational-training equipment worth \$1.5 million to Malaysia. This allocation is part of a comprehensive vocational-training assistance programme that Canada is developing in close collaboration with the Malaysian Government. The organization of technical and trade schools has been given emphasis in the development plans of this newly-formed Commonwealth federation.

The Canadian equipment will be installed in 54 schools newly-built by Malaysia throughout the country, which are being staffed by technical teachers recently graduated in the first class of a two-year course from the Canadian-organized and sponsored Technical Teachers' Training College in Kuala Lumpur. Canadian assistance is also being given in the form of teaching staff and equipment to the new Singapore Vocational Institute.

The vocational-training equipment will be used to teach young Malaysians such trades as carpentry, wood-working and metal-working and welding. It includes hundreds of items ranging from engineers' tools costing \$1.00 each to lathes valued at \$5,000 apiece. The items were selected by Malaysian authorities in consultation with Canadian advisers on the spot according to specific needs of the programme.