



The Board of Investment of Thailand (BOI) held an investment seminar in Toronto in September. BOI Secretary General Chanchai Leetavorn (left) and Ambassador Vitthya Vejajiva of Thailand (right) were guests at a dinner hosted by Mr. George MacDonell, Asst Deputy Minister, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Province of Ontario.

Cardinal Léger Visits Children's Centre in Pattaya

His Eminence Paul-Emile Cardinal Léger visited Thailand November 18-23 to observe first hand the progress being made on three special projects near Pattaya funded by his own Montreal-based foundation, "Le Cardinal Léger et ses Oeuvres".

Upon his arrival at the Father Brennan Centre, Cardinal Léger, now 80 years old, was met by an elephant which he mounted and rode into the main compound while the many children benefiting from Cardinal Léger's good work cheered him. A very dynamic Father Brennan, the man responsible for looking after the projects, then gave the Cardinal a tour of the three projects — an orphanage, a school for the deaf and dumb, and a proposed vocational school for the handicapped.

The orphanage is unique in that it integrates young children into the social environment by sending the children to different local schools where they participate fully without necessarily being identified and stigmatized as orphans. However the children are free at the same time to invite their friends back to the orphanage where various educational and recreational projects are ongoing. Some 150 children, ranging in age from 3 to 15 years old are resident in the orphanage.

The second school of the three sponsored by Cardinal Léger is also innovative because of the degree of

parental involvement. The school for the deaf and dumb concentrates on taking children from very poor rural families. Parents are expected to visit the school on a regular basis to keep in touch and courses are given so that parents can communicate more easily with their children.

Accommodation is provided for those coming from a great distance. Through the modern teaching techniques used at the school, and the excellent staff, the school has become one of the best, if not the best, of its kind in Thailand.

The final project consists of a vocational school for the handicapped which is now in the process of being set up with the main focus on integrating handicapped persons into society through the acquisition of technical skills. A modern computer centre is being installed to allow handicapped persons to learn programming skills which will allow them to find gainful employment in the mainstream of society.

The three projects, altogether called the Father Brennan Centre, are located in a unique setting, close to the world famous Pattaya Beach. The Centre has its own farm and is totally self-sufficient in its food requirements. This trip marked the third time that Cardinal Léger has visited Thailand. The previous two occasions Cardinal Léger came in his capacity as Co-Chairman of the Canadian Foundation for Refugees.

More Funds Provided for Refugee Relief

The Canadian Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, announced on 23 November that Canada will provide a further grant of 3,250,000 baht for the relief of displaced Khmers along the Thai-Cambodia border. The grant is in response to an emergency appeal by the United Nations and will be administered by the United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO).

In 1983, Canada has provided over 33 million baht to aid refugees at the border through the UNBRO and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The total Canadian contribution to refugee relief and programs for Thai people affected by the refugee influx since 1979 now stands at over 800 million baht.

Mr. MacEachen had an opportunity to discuss the problems of refugees on the border during his meeting with Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila while attending the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Post Ministerial Meeting with Dialogue Partners in Bangkok, June 1983.

Visit to Singapore by Hon. B. MacKasey

Canadian Parliamentarian Bryce MacKasey PC, MP visited Bangkok from 8-12 October following his attendance at the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) meeting in Singapore.

During his stay in Thailand Mr. MacKasey paid a call on the Speaker of the Thai House of Representatives and leader of the Thai delegation to the AIPO meeting, Khun Uthai Pinchaichon. The meeting was followed by a tour of the Thai House of Parliament and a luncheon hosted by Khun Uthai and members of the Thai delegation to AIPO, in honour of Mr. MacKasey's visit. His Excellency Canadian Ambassador John Paynter hosted a return dinner for Mr. MacKasey and the Thai Parliamentarians the same day.

The visit of Mr. MacKasey provided an excellent opportunity for an exchange of information about Canada and Thailand. Thai Parliamentarians during their talks with Mr. MacKasey also raised specific issues such as refugees and narcotics control. Mr. MacKasey for his part noted the overall good relations between Canada and Thailand and expressed the sincere hope that they would continue to grow apace.

Mr. MacKasey's visit to Thailand was also timely because it allowed for discussion about Canadian participation in next year's AIPO meeting which will be held in Bangkok.