

Relief for victims of floods, disaster and war

Canada is providing relief for flood victims in Honduras, Paraguay and Tanzania and for disaster victims following volcanic eruptions in Indonesia, as well as funding for assistance to civilians in Lebanon.

The funds are being donated through the international humanitarian assistance program of the Canadian International Development Agency.

Help to Honduras

Canada's contribution of \$40 000 to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) for victims of severe flooding in Honduras following four days of rain and high winds during the tropical storm *Aletta* in May, is in addition to \$20 000 provided earlier in response to appeals from the League of Red Cross Societies (LRCS).

Later reports in the country indicated that damage was more severe than originally reported, with 200 persons feared dead, 600 missing and 25 000 homeless. Some 1 000 homes were destroyed in addition to thousands of hectares of crop and pasture lands. Canada's contribution to PAHO is being used for the purchase and shipment of medicines and medical supplies.

In Paraguay flooding along the 1 052-kilometre River Paraguay affected some 100 000 persons. The LRCS launched an appeal for \$270 000, of which Canada will contribute \$25 000 to help the Paraguayan Red Cross purchase blankets, medicines, tents and food.

Heavy rains in the western region of Tanzania in mid-May resulted in serious flooding in Kyela Mbeya, leaving 23 000 hectares of land, under water, severely damaging some 14 villages and affecting 22 000 persons. Canada's contribution of \$10 000, representing 6.9 per cent of the total appeal by the LRCS, will aid the relief program of the Tanzanian Red Cross and be used for blankets, disinfectant, soap, medicines, clothing, tents and vehicle parts.

Owing to the eruptions of Mount Galunggung in western Java in April, May and June, that devastated some 4 500 hectares of land and affected 200 000 people, Canada is providing \$50 000 to the LRCS for food, shelter and medical assistance to 40 000 evacuees to supplement the relief program of the Indonesian Red Cross. In addition, the

Office of United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator will receive \$50 000 for the purchase in Canada of volcanological monitoring equipment.

Relief for refugees in Lebanon

The Canadian government initially announced \$1 million in emergency assistance to civilians in Lebanon who had suffered displacement as a result of the Israeli invasion. The funding was in response to an appeal by the International Committee of the Red Cross. This assis-

tance was followed by a \$950 000 grant made by Canada to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees for food, shelter and clothing. An additional \$450 000 was given in response to an appeal by the United Nations Children's Fund to provide intensive relief and rehabilitation for homeless mothers and children in southern Lebanon and Beirut. The grants bring the Canadian contribution for humanitarian relief to Lebanon to \$2.4 million this year.

Pre-fabricated housing marketed abroad



Bolduco Incorporated workers load containers with material for shipment to Uruguay.

A Quebec housing company is making its mark abroad exporting prefabricated dwellings to a number of countries.

In 1968, Modulex, which specialized in prefabricated homes merged with P. Bolduc & Fils, a door and window manufacturer to form Bolduco Incorporated.

"Expansion was the next step because we had everything going for us," said company president Laurier Dechênes. The company steadily acquired experience in the home construction industry and later, decided to extend its services throughout eastern Canada. Today, it is one of the largest prefab-home factories in Québec.

After taking part in the Habitat Conference, Mr. Dechênes conducted a study of foreign markets and in 1978, Bolduco made its first shipments to Argentina and Ireland. This was followed by further sales to Venezuela, the United States and Spain. "Because we believe exports are the key to a company's success, I spend three-quarters of my

time developing foreign markets", said Mr. Dechênes.

Exports now account for 20 per cent of the firm's annual sales. Bolduco Incorporated now is aiming at raising export sales to 85 per cent of its production over the next three years. The company is expected to continue sales to France, Germany, Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, Uruguay and Italy, throughout this year.

Some of Bolduco's 75 employees work at the Val Alain plant, while the others are at the offices of Modulex Incorporated — the trade name of the prefab homes. Employees are engaged in manufacturing the various component parts in production. Houses are always delivered to the site. In the case of a foreign country, a local firm may erect the house and look after electricity, plumbing and heating. "Nevertheless, our structures are simple and easy to erect," Mr. Dechênes added.