



PRESS RELEASE

INFORMATION DIVISION
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It was announced in Ottawa and Washington today that the meteorological stations in the Canadian Arctic islands that have been established jointly by the Meteorological Division of the Department of Transport of Canada and the United States Weather Bureau will again be re-supplied by ship this summer.

The re-supply expedition will be carried out by United States Navy and Coast Guard ships under the command of Captain G. E. Peterson, U.S. Navy. These ships are the USS "Edisto" and the USCGC "Eastwind", icebreakers, the USS "Whitley", a cargo ship, and the USS "LST-533", serving as a cargo vessel. Representatives of Canadian Government Departments will take part in the expedition, Mr. J. W. Burton of the Northwest Territories Administration, Department of Resources and Development, Ottawa, acting as senior Canadian representative. The senior representative of the United States Weather Bureau will be Mr. C. J. Hubbard, Chief of Arctic projects of the Weather Bureau.

The ships are due to sail from Boston and Halifax in mid-July. The supplies will be unloaded at the central joint weather station at Resolute Bay, Cornwallis Island, and will subsequently be shipped to the more northerly weather stations by air transport, possibly next spring. It is expected that the ships will return to home ports by the end of September.

Ice conditions for water transportation in the Canadian Arctic are normally favourable for a short time each year, usually during the latter part of August and the first part of September. It is anticipated that the icebreakers and cargo ships will encounter considerable ice before they reach their main destination at Resolute, Cornwallis Island.

Should ice conditions be favourable, it is anticipated that an attempt will be made by the USS "Edisto" and the USCGC "Eastwind" to reach the most northerly weather station in Canada which is located within 500 miles of the North Pole. This new joint weather station, named Alert after Captain George Nares' ship which wintered in the vicinity during 1875-6, was established in April by air transport. The same icebreakers reconnoitred the station site during the 1948 summer supply expedition. If conditions are such that icebreakers cannot reach the station this summer, additional supplies will be carried in by air later this year. Time and conditions permitting, the two icebreakers may also carry supplies to the joint weather station at Eureka and reconnoitre the south coast of Melville Island where a further weather station might be established at some future date.

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The USS "Edisto" will be commanded by Commander W. E. Morrison, U.S. Navy; the USCGC "Eastwind" by Captain A. O. Peterson, U.S. Coast Guard; the USS "Whitley" by Captain E. E. Garcia, U.S. Navy; and the USS "LST-533" by Commander J. E. Vautrot, U.S. Navy.

The supplies to be transported to the Arctic are at present being assembled in Boston and Halifax and a number of United States and Canadian university students are employed in checking and sorting all items to ensure that the proper, all-important supplies reach the individual stations for which they are intended. The supplies include all items necessary for the maintenance of these outpost weather stations for the next twelve months. Such items as prefabricated buildings, food, fuel, weather instruments and equipment will form the main portion of the cargo which will also include certain smaller items such as books and recreational equipment designed to make life more enjoyable for those who man these outposts.

A considerable amount of refrigeration space is necessary aboard ship in order to carry perishable foodstuffs into the Arctic where they are transferred to refrigerators to avoid food spoilage.

In these Arctic regions twenty-four hours of sunlight are experienced daily from the latter part of April to the first part of September. The amount of sunlight then diminishes very rapidly until the first week of November when the sun does not appear above the horizon at all.
