



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green announced today that Canada has sent a six-member medical team to Malaya under the Colombo Plan for a period of five years. The team assembled in Malaya on October 29th and will be based at the State Hospital in Penang.

The members of the Canadian medical team are:

Dr. J.D. Hermann, Ottawa (Surgeon and Team Leader)

Dr. Claude Vipond, Oshawa (Surgeon)

Dr. Guy Screech, Vancouver (Anaesthetist)

Dr. George Sloan, St. Thomas (General Duties)

Dr. Donald McLean, Winnipeg (General Duties)

Mrs. Margaret J. McSweyn, Vancouver (Operating
Theatre Nurse)

This Colombo Plan project stems from a request by the Government of Malaya for Canadian assistance in meeting an acute shortage of doctors in the rural areas of Malaya. In response to this request, Dr. J.D. Hermann, a prominent Ottawa surgeon, was sent to Malaya to make an on-the-spot investigation and advise on what Canada might most usefully do to help Malaya in the medical field. As a result of Dr. Hermann's report, an offer to send a Canadian medical teaching team was made to

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Malaya and accepted. With the enthusiastic cooperation of the Deans of medical schools across Canada, a team of well-qualified Canadian doctors was recruited.

The main function of the Canadian team will be to help train Malayan doctors in modern medical skills and techniques. The Canadian doctors will conduct in-service training and seminars at the State Hospital in Penang and also at outlying hospitals where suitable arrangements can be made. While Canada has undertaken to maintain the team as a whole for a period of five years, it is expected that individual members will be replaced from time to time by other Canadian doctors.