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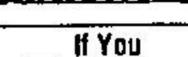
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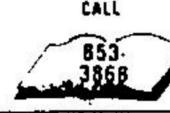
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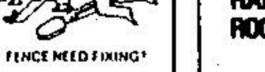
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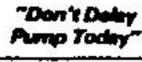
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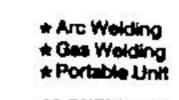
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By VINCENT EGAN Travel Columnist Thomson News Service

It can happen: You are far away in some exotic land, unfamiliar with the local language - and suddenly you need a doctor.

Your first thought may be to seek help from the Canadian or British embassy or consulate. But there may be no such establishment where you are - or if there is, you may have to deal with the civil-service mentality, attuned more to avoiding problems than solving them.

There is an Ontario-based organization that every traveller ought to know about, before a medical crisis arises. It is IAMAT -the International Association for Medical Assistance -- with offices at 108 Nicklin Road, Guelph, N1H 7L5. and at 1287 St. Clair Ave. W., Toron-

to, M6E 1B8 Note that IAMAT has nothing to do with health insurance. Coverage of that kind is provided under provincial government plans, and can be supplemented by purchasing additional protection from private insurers.

ON CALL

Hather, IAMAT is a worldwide network of doctors who speak your language, who have taken some or all of their medical training in the West, and who charge uniform fees as established by the association.

A visit to the doctor's office during normal hours costs \$20 U.S., a house call (to your hotel, for example) would be \$30, and a call made at night, or on a Sunday or holiday, is

The services are available only when travelling outside Canada and the U.S. -- but the network extends to

hundreds of cities in more than 125 countries. Each year, IAMAT up-dates its directory. Each of the medical centres listed in it is under the direction of an internal-medicine specialist,

such as an orthopedist or urologist who are always on call. Membership in IAMAT is free, although a donation of \$25 or more (deductible from taxable income) is

and it has a list of local specialists

WORLD DIRECTORY

suggested.

disease.

Whether a donation is made or not, members receive the following items along with their membership card:

-A world directory of IAMAT physicians' names, addresses and telephone numbers.

-A chart showing the risk of malaria, country by country, and advice on protection against the

-A traveller's clinical record. By asking your doctor to fill it out before you travel, you will be able to present foreign medical personnel with information to guide them in treating you if the need arises.

Members who contribute \$25 or more also receive a package of 24 world climate charts, with such information as the safety of drinking water and the need for immunization, in each place. In addition, IAMAT issues a varie-

ty of bulletins on specific topics of interest to travellers. Example: When Hiking Through Latin America, Be Alert to Chagas' Disease (an illness originating with a bug call barbeiro, in Brazil).

HOW IT BEGAN

The founder of IAMAT, and still its head, is a remarkable Canadian, Vincenzo Marcolongo of Toronto, who trained at Montreal's McGill University.

A migraine sufferer, she had run out of the pills she had brought from home. A local doctor whom she consulted prescribed Aminopyrine, a commonly used painkiller in Europe at that era.

But the Canadian patient has a severely adverse reaction, which was heightened when a second local doctor prescribed a massive dose of the same drug.

When Dr. Marcolongo was called in, he hospitalized the woman, and initiated a course of transfusions and anti-biotic treatments which restored her to health a week later

BE PREPARED There's another valuable lesson to be learned from that episode, besides the one about the wisdom of joining IAMAT: Take with you whatever medicine has been prescribed for you, such as insulin or digitalis

Even if you start out on your travels with an adequate supply, however, they could be lost or even stolen while you are abroad. If possible, obtain from your doctor a typewritten prescription giving the generic and brand names of your medication, the manufacturer's name, and the dosage.

Then, if the need arises, you will still be able to obtain the medication

vou need. People who wear glasses would be similarly well advised to take along the prescription, in case of an accident to their regular glasses. It's also a good idea to take an old pair of glasses, which could be used while waiting for a replacement pair to be

made. TRAVEL NOTEBOOK

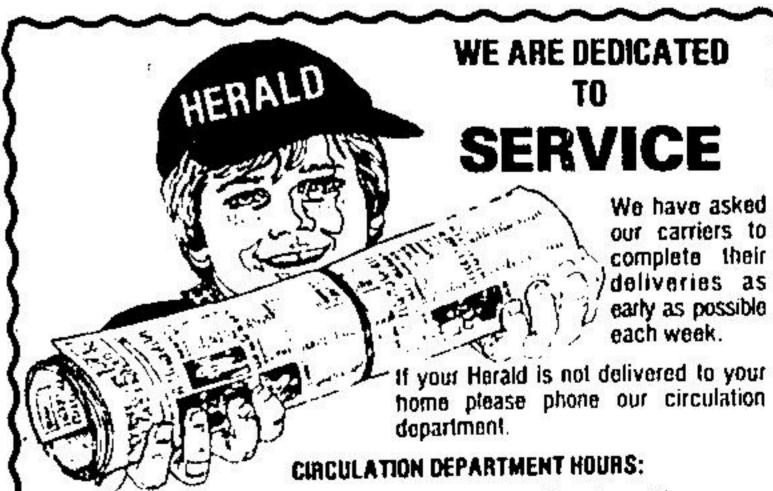
-The Falkland Islands have recovered from the war that followed the 1982 invasion by Argentina, and have become a new and unusual travel destination. Passenger flights to the remote South Atlantic islands take 18 hours, and are operated by the Royal Air Force from Brize Norton in Oxfordshire.

Visitors stay at small family-run hotels or guest-houses in Stanley and few other settlements. Attractions include the wildlife - elephant seals, penguins, dolphins, etc. -- game and sea fishing, and exploring the many shipwrecks. The summer season extends from November to March.

Detailed information is available from Falkland Islands Tourism Information Service, 12a Coney St., York, Y01 1NA, England.

-A direct service from Toronto to Brussels on Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays has been inaugurated by Sabena Belgian World Airlines. Brussels, as the headquarters of the 30-year-old European Economic Community, is a popular centre for international exhibitions; an 80room hotel, called Finotel Expo, has recently opened adjacent to the Brussels Exhibition Centre. -Canada and Thailand will soon

have direct air links. It is expected that Canadian Airlines International will extend its transPacific route to Bangkok in Bangkok-Tokyo-Seattle service to Toronto next April.



For your convenience the Circulation Department is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

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