

Canada-Indonesia Relations

- Canada and Indonesia have developed extensive political and economic relations, including in the areas of human rights, development assistance, education and training, and trade.
- In April 1998, the Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) and the Secretary of State (International Financial Institutions) visited Indonesia as the Prime Minister's special envoys. While there, they announced a \$280-million assistance package, including \$250 million in agricultural credits, \$20 million in export credits, \$9 million in humanitarian assistance and between \$2 million and \$3 million in technical assistance to support financial reforms. This package was in addition to support provided by Canada through the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
- The Indonesian government has taken a number of positive steps on human rights since riots in May 1998. These steps include a national action plan on human rights; proposed ratification of international conventions against torture and discrimination, and of the UN convention on economic, social and cultural rights; the release of political prisoners; and fewer restrictions on the news media. Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) welcomed these steps, but also pressed for further progress in recent meetings with senior Indonesian leaders. Both ministers stressed the importance of full investigations and accountability in dealing with past and more recent human rights violations, including military campaigns in East Timor, Aceh and Irian Jaya, and events during the violence in May 1998. The ministers offered Canadian assistance to support continued reforms and the holding of free and fair elections in May 1999.
- Canada and Indonesia have an extensive and growing program of government-to-government co-operation on human rights, and they co-hosted a human rights colloquium in Jakarta in 1997. Discussions are under way to establish a permanent committee to continue the exchange on human rights issues initiated at the colloquium. In addition, co-operation between the national human rights commissions of both countries has grown since 1993 to include human rights education, training programs, and the exchange of staff.

Trade and Investment

- The Prime Minister led a Team Canada trade mission to Indonesia in 1996, during which government-to-government agreements were concluded on air services, fishery products inspection, culture and exchanges of information relating to geographic data processing systems,