

## Minister attends ASEAN meeting

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan attended the annual Association of Southeast Asian Nations Foreign Ministers' meeting with "dialogue partners" held in Manila, Philippines, June 19.

ASEAN has co-ordinated its international relations with a number of countries through a dialogue which involves regular consultations both directly and in various international fora, as well as the provision by the dialogue partners of regional development assistance. At present, there are six dialogue partners: Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the European Economic Community, Japan and the United States.

Prior to the meeting, Secretary of State for External Affairs MacGuigan said that he attached great importance to Canada's role as a participant in the meeting. Dr. MacGuigan also attended last year's meeting held in Kuala Lumpur. The minister added that he considered such a forum to be "highly useful and significant" in terms of Canada's relations with the region. Canada's relations with ASEAN, which began in 1975 have developed considerably in the past few years, he said.

### Commitment continues

Dr. MacGuigan told the ASEAN foreign ministers that Canada continues to be committed to its relationship with the region. He said that over the past two years "Canada-ASEAN relations have solidified to the point that to an increasing degree our respective objectives are being met and the scope and thrust of our relationship are being fully defined".

"As a Pacific country, Canada has a role to play in co-operative efforts to achieve a degree of stabilization in the area, to promote, as well as, to benefit from the area's economic growth, and to join with the Southeast Asian countries in an effort to resolve issues of regional and international interest," said Dr. MacGuigan.

Canada supports the ASEAN initiative in a search for a solution to the situation in Indochina, Dr. MacGuigan told the meeting. "Canada considers that an overall resolution of the Kampuchean situation, which includes the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops and supervised elections in Kampuchea, offers the best hope not only for the people of Kampuchea...



Ministers take a break at Manila meeting: (left to right) Singapore Foreign Affairs Minister Dhanabalan, Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs MacGuigan, Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi and Malaysia Foreign Minister Rithauddeen.

but also for the achievement of an acceptable equilibrium in the region of benefit to all interested parties," he said.

### Support for conference

The minister reiterated his support for the forthcoming United Nations International Conference on Kampuchea to be held in New York and to which Canada will send a delegation. Canada co-sponsored the ASEAN resolution on Kampuchea at the United Nations General Assembly last year.

Dr. MacGuigan also stressed the importance of Canada's bilateral relationship with ASEAN and its member states. He said that there have been a number of dialogue meetings over the past few years and that he hoped there would be more such meetings in the future.

The minister said that increased industrial development in western Canada coupled with expanding trans-Pacific trade have led Canada to assume a changing role in the ASEAN region.

Dr. MacGuigan said that Canada and ASEAN have co-ordinated their views on North-South issues and on international efforts to regulate the production and sale of some commodities.

Canada and the ASEAN recently signed two agreements providing development assistance to ASEAN in the forestry and fisheries sectors. The Canadian International Development Agency has also financed an aviation industry study commissioned by the ASEAN committee on industry, minerals and energy.

Dr. MacGuigan said that now "the stage is set for a new direction" in the Canada/ASEAN relationship. He said dis-

cussions are under way in negotiating an industrial, technical and commercial co-operation agreement with the region. The minister said the agreement, which he hopes will be signed soon, would become a "useful framework for our expanding relations". The minister also added that he would like the private sector to play a greater role in elaborating the over-all Canada/ASEAN relationship.

### Bilateral meetings

Dr. MacGuigan also held separate bilateral meetings with Malaysian Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, Singaporean Foreign Minister Suppiah Dhanabalan, United States Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Japanese Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda, Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Sawetsila, Philippine Foreign Minister Carlos Romulo and New Zealand Foreign Minister Brian Talboms. The talks covered issues such as the North-South dialogue, energy, trade, the Pacific community concept, Kampuchea and human rights.

During their meeting, Philippine Foreign Minister Romulo and Dr. MacGuigan took the opportunity to sign a nuclear agreement. The agreement was signed in the presence of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, who also met with Secretary of State for External Affairs MacGuigan.

The agreement on the peaceful uses of nuclear material calls for co-operation in nuclear energy and opens the way for sales of Canadian uranium and the transfer of Canadian nuclear technology and CANDU reactors to the Philippines.