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INTERNATIONAL TRADE MINISTER CROSBIE PROMOTES TRADE INTERESTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie will tour Southeast Asia January 6-23 to strengthen trade relations with the region and re-affirm his support for a multilateral trade agreement that will mutually benefit Canada and developing countries.

Mr. Crosbie will begin his official tour with a visit to Vietnam January 6-10 where Canadian business activity, especially in the oil and gas sector, has increased in recent years. His visit, the first by a Canadian minister since the country was unified in 1976, will signal continued improvement in Canada-Vietnam relations.

Mr. Crosbie will visit Malaysia January 10-12, Thailand January 16-17 and Indonesia January 20-23. The three countries, members of the six-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), are increasingly important trading partners for Canada.

Throughout his visit to the ASEAN countries, Mr. Crosbie will stress Canada's commitment to a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multi-lateral trade negotiations. "Arriving at a set of fair and universally agreed upon trade rules will benefit all countries, large and small alike," he said.

Canada's economic relationship with the ASEAN countries is strong. Trade doubled to \$3 billion in the three years up to 1989. "Canada's technological expertise in areas such as telecommunications is an excellent fit for the development and investment needs of these countries," Mr. Crosbie said.