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THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, DR. MARK MACGUIGAN  
ATTENDS ASEAN MEETING IN MANILA  
JUNE 19-20, 1981

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, announced today that he will attend the annual Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Minister's Meeting with Dialogue Partners in Manila on June 19 and 20.

Dr. MacGuigan was invited to attend the meeting by Philippines' Foreign Minister Carlos Romulo, on behalf of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers.

ASEAN is comprised of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The meeting with Dialogue Partners (Canada, Japan, United States, European Economic Community (EEC), Australia and New Zealand) consists of a series of individual and collective meetings between the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and the Foreign Ministers of the countries with which ASEAN has established a formal relationship or "dialogue".

Although Canada's relations with ASEAN date from 1975, they have developed considerably in the past two to three years. Canada's co-operation with ASEAN has been demonstrated by the recent signature of two Memoranda of Understanding providing for Canadian-ASEAN joint efforts in the development of an ASEAN Forest Seed Centre in Thailand and a post-harvest fisheries project in each of the ASEAN countries. Discussions relating to the conclusion of an ASEAN-Canada Industrial, Technical and Commercial Co-operation Agreement are also progressing. Canada has also co-operated closely with the member states of ASEAN in seeking solutions to the humanitarian and security problems which have arisen as a result of developments in Indochina.