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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
SIGN CANADA-ASEAN COOPERATION AGREEMENT
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 25, 1981

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, The Honourable Mark MacGuigan, signed today at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations a Cooperation Agreement with the Foreign Ministers of the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand). Dr. MacGuigan had initially suggested at his meeting with the ASEAN Foreign Ministers at Kuala Lumpur in 1980 that a Cooperation Agreement between Canada ans ASEAN would serve to confirm the thrust and direction of existing and future cooperation. The Agreement which emerged following one year of negotiations calls for cooperation between Canada and ASEAN in industrial, developmental and commercial spheres.

Under industrial cooperation, the Agreement will serve to enhance further the opportunities for expanded transfer of technology between ASEAN and Canada. The sections on development cooperation reaffirm Canadian interest in considering the extension of regional development assistance over and above that currently extended on a bilateral basis. Commercial cooperation consists in Canadian and ASEAN commitments to international principles of commercial and trade relations.

In his remarks to the foreign ministers, Dr. MacGuigan stressed the importance which Canada attaches to its relations with ASEAN and reasserted our interest in further expanding the relations between Canada and the Southeast Asian region.

Canadian links with the Association of Southeast ASEAN Nations have grown since they were first established in 1975 and have complemented the bilateral relationships which Canada has long maintained with the member countries. Total two-way trade between Canada and ASEAN in 1980 was Cdn. $1.14 billion.