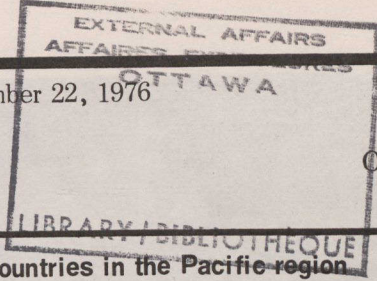


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Mr. MacEachen visits four countries in the Pacific region

To demonstrate strong interest in diversifying external relations and to emphasize the importance Canada attaches to countries in the Pacific region in its diversification policy, Allan J. MacEachen, Secretary of State for External Affairs, visited Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Australia from August 23 to September 5.

During this first official visit to these countries by a Canadian foreign minister, Mr. MacEachen, in discussions with government leaders, stressed Canada's desire to intensify its relations, both bilaterally and multilaterally, in the Pacific area. He was accompanied by Basil Robinson, Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs; R.L. Rogers, Director General of the Bureau of Asian and Pacific Affairs; J.M.T. Thomas, General Director of the Pacific, Asia and Africa Bureau, Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce; and C. Westdal, Deputy Regional Director, Asia Division, Canadian International Development Agency.

On the bilateral side, the Minister's visit was intended partly to carry forward the momentum developed over the past few years of the increasing number of Canadians visiting the region, privately or publicly, through expanding trade and economic development assistance. Canada's desire to strengthen co-operation on political and economic questions, both regionally and internationally, was well received, as was Canada's commitment to increased economic development assistance in the Pacific region to help create a more durable basis for peace and stability.

Support for ASEAN projects

In this connection and on the multilateral side, Mr. MacEachen stressed Canada's strong support of the principles and objectives of the Association of South East Asian Nations, (ASEAN). Ottawa views ASEAN as having the potential to be a significant contributor to stability in the Pacific region.

To add substance to Canadian support, the Minister announced in Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur that Canada was ready to consider development assistance for regional projects identified by the five member countries and to open formal discussions with ASEAN itself to facilitate such assistance. The main Canadian multilateral assistance to the region is primarily in the form of participation in the Asian Development Fund of the Asian Development Bank, in which Canada holds approximately 6 per cent of the voting power and ranks third among donor countries in over-all financial support.

Indonesia

In Indonesia, Mr. MacEachen met President Soeharto and Foreign Minister Malik. Discussions ranged from security in the Pacific to the Conference on Industrial Economic Co-operation, where Indonesia is a member of the Raw Materials and Financial Affairs Commissions. Agreements were signed and letters exchanged concerning Canadian assistance in cement, coal mining, hydro power development and water resource programs. The External Affairs Minister also indicated Canada's willingness to provide wheat aid up to an amount of \$10 million this year.

Malaysia

In Malaysia, Prime Minister Hussein Onn and Foreign Minister Rithauddeen spoke to Mr. MacEachen particularly on the role of ASEAN. An agreement was signed for a \$7.5-million Canadian loan for power projects and a memorandum of understanding was signed concerning a Canadian grant for a geochemical survey in Central Malaysia.

New Zealand

In New Zealand, Prime Minister Muldoon and Foreign Minister Talboys exchanged views with Mr. MacEachen on regional and world questions, including issues before the Law of the Sea Conference, the boycott by African states

Cabinet changes

As this issue was going to press, the Prime Minister announced changes in the Cabinet, including the appointment of Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen as President of the Privy Council and House Leader. Donald C. Jamieson, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, replaces Mr. MacEachen in the External Affairs portfolio. Details will appear in the next issue.