

ASEAN

Canadian relations with Indonesia, the fifth most-populous country in the world, were highlighted in 1976 by the visits of the then Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan MacEachen, in August and the then Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Don Jamieson, in March. Mr. MacEachen's visit to Jakarta, which was part of a Pacific tour that included Malaysia, New Zealand and Australia, gave additional impetus to a rapidly-expanding association with important political, economic, developmental and commercial aspects. Commercial interests were further stimulated in 1976 by the visit of Don Jamieson, at the head of a Canadian business delegation, to the five ASEAN capitals. In Jakarta, Mr. Jamieson signed an agreement making available, through the Export Development Corporation and Canadian financial institutions, credit facilities worth \$175 million for the purchase of Canadian goods and services. One of Canada's largest bilateral development-assistance programs (involving some \$35 million a year) is operating in Indonesia. In addition, during a recent visit to Jakarta, the President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) signed an agreement for a \$25-million line of credit as part of the \$200-million financing "package" announced during the official visit of President Soeharto to Canada in 1975.

During his Pacific tour, Mr. MacEachen stressed the support of the Canadian Government for the aspirations and goals of ASEAN, which promises to be an instrument of stability, peace and development in the region. He announced Canada's wish to establish a dialogue with ASEAN. Canada has since made an offer of development assistance to the organization.

Canada's bilateral relations with all five ASEAN member countries are very good. It has traditionally had close relations with Malaysia and Singapore within the Commonwealth. Emphasis in current relations, as with Thailand, has been on expanding mutually-beneficial trade connections, as well as closer

political consultations. The Philippines is a major source of immigration to Canada and a commercial partner of growing importance. Manila is Canada's contact point with ASEAN.