

Canadian relations with the member countries of ASEAN are broad, friendly and expanding. We consult with the members of ASEAN on a range of international issues; and, like others - USA, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, EEC and recently India, we maintain a "Dialogue" with the Association involving periodic meetings to discuss regional development assistance and other issues. The CIDA industrial cooperation programme, which promotes cooperation between the Canadian private sector and that of other countries, has resulted in more projects for ASEAN and its members than for any other part of the world. Five of the projects in the ASEAN area are ASEAN-wide and support its objectives for internal economic cooperation. These include a furniture hardwoods seminar in 1979, a standards seminar in 1980 and a seminar on licencing and technology. Canada also supports two institutions based in the ASEAN region - the Private Investment Corporation and Technonet. The other projects contribute to the area's development on a bilateral basis.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mark MacGuigan, is the first Canadian minister to participate in post Conference talks with the ASEAN Foreign Ministers. It is anticipated that the talks will focus on Canada/ASEAN relations, Indochina and other regional and international issues of mutual interest.