

attended the opening of the Informatics Show in Singapore. A delegation led by Benno Friesen, MP, attended the Interparliamentary Union meetings in Thailand in October 1987. Another parliamentary delegation led by Steve Paproski, MP, visited the Philippines, Singapore and Indonesia in November 1987. Speaker of the Senate Guy Charbonneau attended the ASEAN Interparliamentary Organization in Malaysia in January 1988. A parliamentary team sponsored by the Department studied regional security issues in Thailand and the Philippines in February.

A number of the return visits of senior ASEAN officials during the past year were made in the context of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Vancouver in October 1987. These included Prime Minister H.E. Sultan Sir Hassanah Bolkuiah of Brunei, Prime Minister Mahathir of Malaysia, and Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore. Also in October Education Minister Quisumbing of the Philippines visited Ottawa; in March 1988 Deputy Minister of Industry Korn Dabbanansi visited Ottawa and Toronto.

Trade and commercial relations between Canada and the nations of Southeast Asia continued to show steady growth during the year. This was reflected by a number of events: the establishment of the ASEAN-Canada Business Council, which held its first plenary meeting in the Philippines in November 1987; the "Made in Thailand" trade exposition in Edmonton in July 1987 and Indonesian seminars on investment opportunities held in several locations across Canada in October; the ASEAN food packaging tour of Canada in September and October; a two-week study by ASEAN officials to obtain general views of Canadian MTN policy; and a series of tours of ASEAN fish packing plants by Canadian officials to explain Canadian hygiene and packaging standards. Altogether there were some 17 federally sponsored trade missions, fairs and exhibits in ASEAN and in Canada, and 17 market and sector studies to point up opportunities for Canadian business. Additional missions were financed by the Trade Facilitation Office, and by CIDA under its development co-operation program with ASEAN.

The provinces were also active in the region in 1987/88. British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec initiated eight trade missions to the ASEAN region during the year. Provinces were also represented at the annual meeting of the Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Conference in Indonesia in February 1988, reflecting growing provincial involvement in a sector of emerging importance to ASEAN nations.

The growing commercial and trade relations between Canada and ASEAN were reflected in a two-way trade increase of 33.5 per cent in 1987/88 over the previous year, amounting to \$1 833.6 million. Canadian exports to ASEAN amounted to \$908.5 million (an increase of 27.8 per cent over 1986) while ASEAN exports to Canada rose to \$925.1 million (an increase of 39.9 per cent over 1986). For the second year running ASEAN countries had a trade surplus in 1987 of \$16.6 million. Individual two-way trade was the following: Indonesia \$473.1 million; Malaysia and Brunei \$305.7 million; Philippines \$229.2 million; Singapore \$429.9 million; and Thailand \$395.7 million.

Australia and New Zealand

Canada's traditional relationships with Australia and New Zealand continued to develop in 1987/88 and were marked by a number of ministerial visits reflecting close co-operation and consultation on bilateral and multilateral issues.

In October 1987, Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke and New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange participated in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Vancouver. Mr. Hawke met privately with Prime Minister Mulroney and they discussed ways to achieve common objectives in the fight against *apartheid* in South Africa and on ways of dealing with the crisis brought on by the two military coups in Fiji. During the Vancouver meeting, Prime Minister Lange of New Zealand and Minister of Communications Flora MacDonald signed a bilateral Film and Video Co-Production Agreement. International trade issues, including MTN developments and ways in which the Cairns Group can support the reform of international agricultural trade practices, were prominent in discussions held between Pat Carney, Minister for International Trade, and the Australian Minister for Trade Negotiations, Michael Duffy, who visited Ottawa in September 1987. Mr. Duffy also met with the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Agriculture during his visit.

A major development in Canada-New Zealand bilateral relations was the publication of a report by the New Zealand Select Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence titled *New Zealand and Canada*, which contained recommendations on how the relationship could be revitalized. The Canadian government endorsed the recommendations made by the Committee. In response to the call for closer relations, Canada initiated a visit by the House of Commons Finance Committee led by Don Blenkarn to New Zealand in February 1988. During the visit the Committee met with Prime Minister David Lange and the Finance Minister, Roger Douglas.

On January 26, 1988, Australia marked the 200th anniversary of European immigration to the island continent. Canada helped to celebrate this event by sending a number of performing artists to Australia, including the RCMP Band. In his Bicentennial message, Prime Minister Mulroney said that Canada and Australia look upon one another as mates. He expressed his hope that many Canadians would visit Australia, especially EXPO 88 in Brisbane. Canada will have a pavilion on the site. The Canadian Commissioner General for EXPO 88 is the world-famous wheelchair athlete Rick Hansen.

Australia and New Zealand remain important markets for Canadian exports with total trade approaching \$1.6 billion. In 1987 exports to Australia amounted to \$689 million, a 10.5 per cent increase over 1986. Exports to New Zealand were \$200 million in 1987, a 14.9 per cent increase over 1986. A high percentage of Canadian exports consist of semi- and fully-manufactured products.

The South Pacific

Canada's interests in the South Pacific expanded with the announcement by Joe Clark in June 1987 of a CIDA regional aid initiative. The initiative reflects a more active Canadian presence in the Asia and Pacific region. It will