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and will never become, a barrier to the full development of economic links with other countries.

Canada welcomes the remarkable success of the ASEAN member nations in creating a sense of common destiny and a tradition of mutual support. Your achievements in this regard have allowed ASEAN to emerge as a bastion of stability, progress and freedom in Southeast Asia. ASEAN represents an undeniable political success which derives much of its strength from the tradition of consultation among its member states. We were particularly pleased when our fellow Commonwealth member Brunei became ASEAN's sixth member state earlier this year.

We all recognize that our economic and commercial objectives cannot be pursued in isolation from other realities. Canada recognizes that political stability and social progress are the foundations on which the economic development of the ASEAN countries must be based.

Canada, as you know, has consistently supported ASEAN's demands that Vietnamese troops withdraw from Cambodia. Over the past year ASEAN has maintained its position skillfully and the challenge remains for Vietnam to demonstrate some genuine flexibility. Conditions in Vietnam and Cambodia have caused thousands of people to flee these countries - and Canada has maintained its policy of accepting substantial numbers of refugees from Southeast Asia. We are also continuing to provide aid to refugees in Thailand and in the Thai border region. In fact, I can inform you that I have decided to approve \$2 million to refugee programs in Thailand. Following a request from the Prime Minister of Thailand, Canada has now agreed to provide a small, but symbolically significant, amount of non-military assistance to the non-Communist elements in the coalition government.

Canada's regional development assistance program makes our support for ASEAN concrete. This and other forms of ASEAN/Canada cooperation will be the subject of an extensive review and consultations during the next meeting of the Canada/ASEAN Joint Cooperation Committee, which is scheduled to be held in Manila in late September. As you are aware, Canada responded to a request from ASEAN by raising your concerns at the London Economic Summit. These included the need for a more liberalized trading system; the loss of momentum over commodities in UNCTAD; and the debt problem.

Mr. Chairman, the mechanisms to support greater cooperation between Canada and Southeast Asia continue to develop rapidly. Understanding and cooperation have been enhanced by the Pacific Rim Opportunities Conference and by meetings of the Pacific Basin Economic Committee. Last year Mr. MacEachen spoke to this meeting about the Canadian

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