

Canada-ASEAN Developments

Third Joint Co-operation Committee Convenes In Ottawa

The third Canada-ASEAN Joint Co-operation Committee met in Ottawa on October 30-31, 1985. The Committee was established under the Economic Cooperation Agreement which entered into force on June 1, 1982. Its task is to promote and review the various forms of cooperation envisaged under the agreement including industrial, commercial and development cooperation. The Committee is also mandated to review recent trends in the international economic situation. Both Canada and ASEAN agreed on the urgent need to revive a free and open multilateral trading system and to continue measures to resist growth of protectionist tendencies and policies.

During the course of the Committee meeting, ASEAN delegates met with the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Joe Clark, who stressed Canada's continuing support of ASEAN as an important force for economic and social progress and as a significant factor in regional peace and security. The Minister for International Trade, the Honourable James Kelleher, also participated in a number of functions.

The ASEAN delegation was led by the Ambassador of Thailand to Canada, Mr. Manaspas Xuto and included a 43 person delegation comprising individuals from all ASEAN member countries as well as the Secretary-General and representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta. The Canadian delegation was headed by the Assistant Deputy Minister for Asia and Pacific Branch, Mr. Earl Drake, and included representatives from major departments.

A wide range of international issues affecting ASEAN-Canada trade relations were discussed at the JCC with satisfaction being expressed for the growth of trade between the two sides. It was agreed that Canada would organise a forum in Van-



Minister for International Trade J. Kelleher greets ASEAN representatives, from the left, Mr. Tan Keng Jin, Singapore; Mr. Adiwoso Abubakar, Indonesia; and Indonesian Ambassador Dr. Hasjim Djital.

couver in conjunction with Expo 86 in Vancouver devoted to bringing together senior private sector decision-makers.

In addition to plenary sessions, there were extensive discussions on international development issues within a special working party struck for the occasion. A progress report showed that there were a number of important projects coming onstream and in addition to the new projects which were tabled for consideration. These projects will enhance ASEAN's ability to respond to its various developmental priorities.

In the course of the proceedings, ASEAN officials met with Canadian media representatives. Questions focussed on the growing importance of Canada-ASEAN trade links, the political and economic conditions of Southeast Asia.

The fourth session of the Joint Co-operation Committee will be held in Thailand in November 1986.

Ministerial Visit *(Cont'd. from page 1)*

Auckland, New Zealand, a consulate in Shanghai, China and consulate-general in Osaka, Japan. Increased resources including additional trade development officers will be given to existing Asia-Pacific posts to promote and facilitate existing links.

The government is also taking every opportunity to increase general economic cooperation between Canada and the Pacific Rim. One example is the next round of multilateral trade negotiations which will set the new shape for world trade. Recently the Department of External Affairs sent senior officials on a trade policy mission to Korea, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines. Their mandate was to identify specific areas where Canada and ASEAN can work together to increase joint leverage in the negotiations on market access (see story page 5).

Canada is also taking a more active role in Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference initiated by business leaders and encouraged by governments. The fifth annual conference on Pacific Economic Cooperation will be held in Vancouver in 1986 and the Government of Canada has established a national committee of 24 prominent Canadian business, academic and political leaders under the chairmanship of Mr. Eric Trigg to develop the program for the conference.

The visit by Trade Minister Kelleher to the ASEAN countries in February 1986 will focus on these new initiative and stimulate the opportunities that exist for enhancing cooperation in trade and economic relations between Canada and ASEAN.



Mr. James Kelleher with Malaysian Deputy Director-General Sallehuddin Abdullah; Assistant Deputy Minister Earl Drake, ASEAN Secretary-General; Thai Ambassador Xuto and Malaysian High Commissioner Bakri Aijub Ghazali.