

CANADA - ASEAN

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Dr. MacGuigan in Singapore for the Post-Ministerial Conference and . . .



Dr. Mark MacGuigan (centre), accompanied by the Canadian delegation, speaking to his ASEAN counterparts at the Post-Ministerial Conference.

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CANADA's Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan attended the Post Ministerial Conference of the 15th annual ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Singapore on June 17-18. During their two days of talks Dr. MacGuigan and his foreign minister counterparts from the five ASEAN countries discussed a wide range of international economic and political issues of mutual concern, including Cambodia, and reviewed the encouraging progress in the Canada-ASEAN relationship.

International Issues

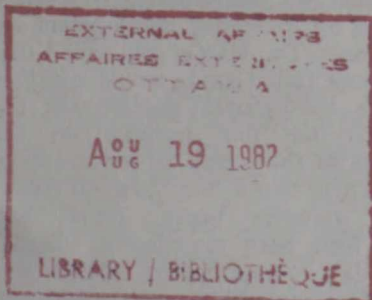
Having just participated at the Economic Summit of the seven major industrialized countries in Versailles in early June, Dr. MacGuigan was in a position to brief his ASEAN colleagues on the outcome, particularly with respect to the prospects for global negotiations on a wide range of international economic issues. Noting that Canada depends on international trade for almost 30 per cent of its gross national product, and that Canada has one of the most open markets in the world, Dr. MacGuigan expressed the hope that

protectionist pressures in the international trading system could be resisted, and that to this end governments would work towards a successful GATT Ministerial Conference in Geneva in November.

Other important international issues discussed were the Law of the Sea Treaty and questions relating to disarmament. Dr. MacGuigan shared ASEAN's concern at the alarming increase in expenditures devoted to the manufacture of armaments when funds could better be directed towards economic development. Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau addressed the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament on June 19 and pledged that Canada would work to halt the continued growth of conventional and nuclear weapons. Canada is the only country that has developed its own nuclear technology and has not used that technology to develop nuclear weapons.

Canada-ASEAN Relations Progress

Dr. MacGuigan reviewed in some detail the considerable progress that has been made in Canada-ASEAN relations since last year's ministerial meeting. The meeting between senior officials in Manila



SPECIAL FEATURE:

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