

Canadians have had to live and work in conditions of extreme cold. Canadians have learnt first-hand that distance and climate make the job of transportation and of communication vastly more complicated, but we have also developed means to deal with these problems. Thus our experience with these conditions has given us an insight into the problems faced by Indonesia, as well as a capability to find practical and workable solutions.

There are further similarities -- Indonesia, like Canada, is rich in natural resources, and both countries face the challenge of developing them in a rational manner which will bring the greatest amount of benefit to our citizens. This involves, for both our countries, the participation of foreign capital and the attendant need to maintain constant communication between the government and the private sector to ensure that the interests of all parties are served and that the decision-making process works efficiently.

A parallel can also be drawn between the multicultural character of Canada, whose population is composed of people from many nations, and the many cultures and traditions, which, occupying innumerable islands extending more than 5,000 kilometres, make up the diversity and the unity of Indonesia. Canada therefore appreciates not only the physical difficulties associated with transportation and communication over such vast distances, but also the overriding importance of overcoming these problems to foster national unity and to create a common national purpose.

Thus the reorientation of Canada's foreign policy to which I referred earlier, along with the similarity or convergence of interests between our two countries, created a climate in which the rapid development of our bilateral relations became possible and desirable. That neither side has been slow to take advantage of these circumstances can be demonstrated by a look at recent trade and development figures. In 1973, our bilateral trade was \$20.7 million. Two years later, in 1975, this figure had grown to over \$78 million. As well, over the last ten years, our development-assistance disbursements to Indonesia have grown from less than half a million dollars to \$36.7 million in 1975-76. This makes our development assistance program with Indonesia one of the largest we have in the world.

The impressive performance of the Indonesian economy in the past few years and Indonesian economic-development plans suggest a healthy economic growth in the future. The emphasis on sectors such as forestry, mining, oil and gas development, power-generators and distribution, telecommunication and agriculture -- areas which match Canadian capabilities -- points to a further development.