

Mr. Chairman,

Addressing my first ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference, I am pleased to begin by reaffirming the new Canadian Government's strong commitment to our relationship with the free nations of Southeast Asia. ASEAN has been successful in developing coordinated positions and in opening channels of dialogue with friendly countries outside the region. It has a truly internationalist view of the world. This is a perspective which Canada shares - and it is perhaps one of the reasons that we feel we can enjoy such an easy and constructive relationship with the ASEAN countries.

Mr. Chairman, there are three main issues to be discussed at the meeting today - Cambodia, the international economic situation and narcotics. I will be addressing each of these briefly and adding a fourth item of my own for informal consideration.

Let me start with Cambodia. In the past year resistance to the Vietnamese occupation - the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea - has been subjected to heavy attack. My Government condemned Vietnam for its action, in particular its flagrant violation of Thailand's territorial integrity. We are relieved that Vietnam did not succeed. The resistance forces have not been broken. That underscores the continued resilience and determination of the widespread opposition to Vietnam's policy. For our part, Canada fully supports the consistent efforts of ASEAN to achieve a