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Mr. Clark spent two weeks in Southeast Asia this summer attending a foreign ministers' conference and meeting with leaders and ministers to discuss important bilateral issues. He said that contact on all levels was essential to developing relations and that regular exchanges would be encouraged.

Increased trade and commercial matters are significant elements in the creation of a comprehensive relationship and Mr. Clark said that Canada "will be committing additional personnel and financial resources to enhance and promote new investment, new technologies and fresh entrepreneurial skills with a view to securing a long-term and mutually beneficial economic presence in this area".

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Visit enhances ties with Southeast Asia

Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark stressed Canada's commitment to continuing and expanding relations in Southeast Asia at the Post-Ministerial Conference (PMC) of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), held this year in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, July 11-13.

It was Mr. Clark's first ASEAN PMC and at the opening session he said he was "pleased to begin by reaffirming the new Canadian government's strong commitment to our relationship with the free nations of Southeast Asia".

The annual ASEAN PMC is attended by the foreign ministers from the ASEAN countries of Brunei, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand, and their "dialogue" partners - Canada, Australia, the European Community, Japan, New Zealand and the US. It provides a forum for discussing current issues of concern to all participants as well as the opportunity for bilateral meetings with individual foreign ministers. In addition to meeting with all the

ASEAN foreign ministers, Mr. Clark met with Secretary of State George Shultz, Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and Australian Foreign Minister William Hayden.

Official visit

Mr. Clark's participation at the meeting was the highlight of his July 9-22 official visit to Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia, where he held talks with the foreign ministers and other ministers and officials on political issues, the importance of increasing two-way trade and commercial co-operation including joint ventures, humanitarian concerns and development issues. He also met with Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad in Malaysia, Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda in Thailand, President Soeharto in Indonesia, and with Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew in Singapore on July 23.

Cambodia refugees

Discussions at the PMC and with foreign ministers centered on a number of political



From left seated: Director General Thai Department of Technical and Economic Co-operation Apilas Osatananda, Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila, Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark and Canadian Ambassador John Paynter sign documents for the double taxation agreement and a CIDA agreement on linkages between universities.



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