

Around the Region

PHILIPPINES

Turning A New Leaf In Canada-Philippine Relations

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark conveyed Canada's determination to assist the Philippines in concrete, practical ways during a bilateral visit to the Philippines from June 28 to July 2 immediately following the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference. During Mr Clark's meetings with senior members of the Philippine government including President Corazon Aquino, Vice President and Foreign Minister, Salvador Laurel, and Minister of Finance Jaime Ongpin, he stressed that Canada fully supports and admires the efforts of the government to build a new order in the Philippines. To demonstrate this support, Mr Clark said Canada is prepared to begin immediately a new aid relationship with the Philippines and he intends to make the Philippines a priority country for Canadian aid. This means the implementation of a range of Canadian assistance activities related to the creation of a C\$10 million Negros Rehabilitation and Development Fund. This Fund, to be used over the next three years, will be used to help the rural poor in Negros who have been displaced because of the slump in sugar prices. It will help the area to diversify away from sugar production.

Mr Clark visited Negros Occidental in order to assess first hand the development problems of the Province. He met Governor Daniel Lacson and presented C\$84,000 to assist the Province in its social and economic development work. The presentation symbolised Canada's commitment for active and urgent support of rehabilitation and development work in Negros.

The Minister also outlined Canada's commitment to an over \$5 million program of assistance for the Philippines Immunisation Program. The assistance will help the government of the Philippines to achieve its goal of Universal Child Immunisation by 1990. The Canadian grant will be used to purchase vaccines for such childhood diseases as measles, polio and diphtheria.

Mr Clark also announced the extension of the Bayawan small scale fisheries development project in Negros Oriental. Canada has been assisting the project for the past four years. The extension will continue Canadian support for another two years in the area of marketing for fishing cooperatives.

Trade and foreign investment equally received attention during Mr Clark's discussions in Manila. Mr Clark's visit marked the conclusion of negotiations



Mr Clark visiting Canadian-assisted projects in the central Philippines.

with the Philippines on a foreign investment insurance agreement intended to help promote two way trade and investment. He also disclosed that, because he believes the private sector to be the key to strong economic relations between Canada and the Philippines, he had approached certain members of the young president's organisation of Canada to ask them to apply their special international and entrepreneurial skills to identify trade and investment opportunities in the Philippines.

Mr Clark made a point of noting that the people of the Philippines have helped to build Canada. Canada is a stronger country because Filipino enterprise and commitment are now part of the Canadian national character. Now, Mr Clark said, Canada and Canadians will try to play a helpful role in restoring the strength and the destiny of the Philippines.

Mr Clark also visited the inhabitants of Navotas, Manila who lined the narrow streets waving placards of welcome and appreciation for the Canadian assistance which had helped them establish a small school. While in Negros Occidental, Mr Clark toured the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Regional Hospital which treats children suffering from severe malnutrition largely as a result of the displacement of sugar workers. In a fitting finale to a fruitful visit, Mr Clark exchanged toasts with Vice President and Foreign Minister Laurel during the Canada Day reception.

Food Pacific '86

The importance of the Asian market was emphasized by officials of the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food who visited Manila in June to invite food buyers and exhibitors to Food Pacific '86, Canada's International Trade Show on food, being held Aug 29 - Sep 2 in Vancouver.

Mr Harvey Schroeder, the British Columbia Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture and Food and Commissioner of Food Pacific '86, and Brian Hodge, Director of Export Market Development of the same Ministry, stopped in Manila in the course of a Southeast Asian tour to promote the show and to encourage trade relations with the Province of British Columbia.

"The changing state of the Asian consumer, the increase in food imports by Asian countries and the expanding economy of the Pacific Rim Region has made this market place one of the most important in the world", said the two officials.

Food Pacific '86 will enable buyers to shop the world for the newest food and beverage products and latest in food technology and packaging. The event derives its name and theme from the trade prospects which the Pacific Rim holds. The Pacific Rim is considered the world's largest food market place where in 1984 \$1.2 trillion was spent on food - 40% of the world's total.