

Looking in the other direction, our officials, both at the Embassy here in Bangkok and through various organizations in Canada, stand ready to counsel Thai exporters on strategies to enhance your success in our market. Your expanded presence in Canada, including the new Thai Trade Centre in Vancouver, will also be of great value in this regard.

Vancouver, of course, is the site of this year's world fair, Expo '86, which will be held from May to October.

We have given tremendous emphasis to the Pacific dimension of Expo '86. We are delighted that Thailand will be there and I look forward to visiting your pavilion in the ASEAN Plaza. Expo '86 will be a first rate opportunity for you to show Canada who and what you are. The fair will attract an estimated 15 million visitors. It should serve very well as a showcase for the Thai business community.

Canada has demonstrated a sensitivity to Thai industrial development initiatives by both direct and indirect investment in this country. Established here are such Canadian firms as Bata Shoes, Seagrams and Alcan (the Aluminum Company of Canada). Late in 1985, another Canadian company, Gopher Oil, signed an agreement with your Minister of Industry to invest 17 million American dollars in oil exploration over the next two years.

We are also proud of new joint venture developments, including ChampThai, which produces parts for road graders, and Oboe Engineering, which provides solar drying technology for Thai agriculture.

Our Government actively supports industrial cooperation, especially

joint ventures. This September, for example, we are organizing a Canada-ASEAN Forum in Vancouver, the aim of which is to encourage and facilitate cooperation between our country and yours through joint ventures. I am also pleased to announce that the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada will be collaborating with your Industrial Finance Corporation and your Board of Investment in organizing a seminar later this year on joint ventures in Thailand.

Canada is keen to respond to Thai requirements in high technology, including technology transfer. Some projects for which we see potential are primary radar systems for civilian airports, elevated railway expertise for Bangkok's Mass Transit Project, and the possible provision of technology that would allow Bangkok city buses to run on compressed natural gas. Our advanced telecommunications expertise may be applicable to Thai interests in Ramasat and for the provision of telephone services in isolated rural communities.

In energy, Canadian companies have supplied all the power boilers for the current seven units at the Mae Moh thermal power plant and have signed a contract to provide the boiler for Unit 8.

Speaking more generally, let me say how delighted we are that Canada has been selected as Thailand's dialogue partner within ASEAN. What this means is that for the next three years Thailand will be our window on ASEAN. This is a very special relationship. I am sure it will provide further opportunities for friendly bilateral cooperation between Canada and Thailand.

May there always be friendship between Canadians and Thais.