

CANADA - ASEAN

ISSN 0129-9638

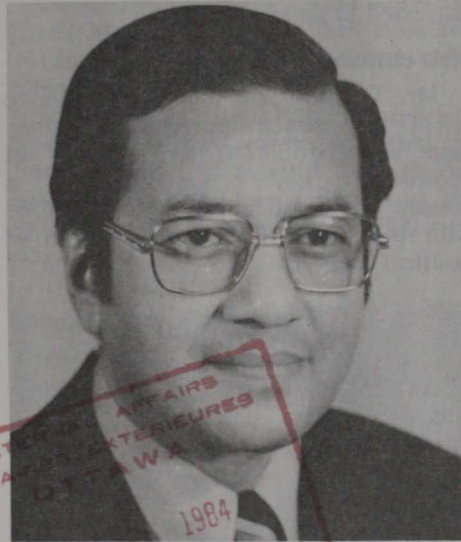


JANUARY 1984 VOL 1

Dr. Mahathir's Visit to Canada Reaffirms Strength of Bilateral Ties with Malaysia

Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad paid an official visit to Canada January 12-15, 1984. He was accompanied by his wife Dr. Siti Hasmah, the Minister of National and Rural Development Datuk Sanusi bin Haji Junid and senior officials. In addition a group of seventeen senior Malaysian business executives and a press contingent of ten accompanied Dr. Mahathir.

On arrival in Ottawa January 12, Dr. Mahathir was met by the Minister of International Trade The Hon Gerald Regan and a delegation of Malaysian students. In his welcoming remarks the Minister stressed Canada's desire to expand political and economic ties with Malaysia. The following day Dr. Mahathir and his wife paid a courtesy call on their Excellencies the Governor-General and Mrs. Schreyer. Dr. Mahathir subsequently met privately with Prime Minister Trudeau. The two PMs were later joined by Malaysian and Canadian ministers and



senior officials. Discussions centred on international economic and political issues as well as issues of interest in the Canada-Malaysia bilateral relationship.

Following a visit to the Ottawa facilities of Bell Canada-Northern Telecoms (the latter Canadian company having a manufacturing plant in Malaysia), Dr. Mahathir attended a reception and met 300-400 Malaysian students who are currently studying in the Ottawa area. In the evening Prime Minister Trudeau hosted a state dinner in honour of Dr. Mahathir. Both Prime Ministers spoke at the dinner referring to a number of international issues where there was a shared interest and similarity of outlook. They endorsed solid bilateral links and expressed the hope that commercial relations would be further strengthened as a result of the visit. Prime Minister Trudeau praised Malaysia's achievements and emphasized the importance Canada attached to its relationship with ASEAN. Prime Minister Mahathir expressed support for Prime Minister Trudeau's peace initiative.

On Saturday January 14 the Malaysian Prime Minister and his party left for Toronto and a visit to the Butler Metals plant in Cambridge Ontario which is owned by a Malaysian government corporation. He subsequently met with

senior ministers from the Ontario provincial government, including Deputy Premier Welch, Minister of Education Stephenson and Minister of Industry and Trade Miller. Discussions centred on the trade and investment opportunities between Canada and Malaysia. Later that day Dr. Mahathir participated in a well-attended roundtable discussion with senior Canadian business executives who have current and projected commercial interests in Malaysia.

Prior to his departure from Toronto Dr. Mahathir lunched at the CN Tower with the Hon D P Smith, Minister for Small Business.

This was Dr. Mahathir's first visit to Canada and reflects a rapidly growing interest, shared by Canada and Malaysia, in expanding the relationship between the two countries. Prime Minister Trudeau visited Malaysia in January 1983 and Minister of International Trade Gerald Regan led a group of senior Canadian business executives to Malaysia in May 1983.

Canada Welcomes Brunei's Independence

On the occasion of Brunei's accession to full independence on January 1, 1984, Canada's Governor-General, Edward Schreyer, sent his congratulations to His Royal Highness, The Sultan of Brunei.

His Royal Highness hosted the Canadian Prime Minister, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, when he visited Brunei on January 13-14, 1983. Mr. Trudeau was the first western leader to pay a state visit to Brunei.

A second official visit from Canada is planned for February 23-24, 1984 when a ministerial delegation will attend the formal independence celebrations in Bandar Seri Begawan. Canada looks forward to expanding relations with Negara Brunei Darusallam as it assumes its membership in ASEAN, the Commonwealth and the United Nations.

Minister Planche of Alberta visits Manila and Singapore

As part of his January visit to Asia to explore export and investment opportunities in support of Alberta industry, Mr. Hugh Planche, the Minister for Economic Development of Alberta met with government officials and business leaders in the Philippines and Singapore.

In the Philippines Mr. Planche, in particular, explored local entrepreneurial interest in investment in Alberta and extended support to Alberta firms engaged in business in the Philippines.

During his visit to Singapore from January 18 to 24 Mr. Planche pursued possibilities for strengthening the involvement of Alberta oil equipment and services suppliers in the region, particularly in the context of Singapore's association with oil exploration activities in South China. He also discussed with government leaders possible educational assistance in support of Singapore's interest in high technology training.