

News Release

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OUELLET TO MEET WITH ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS IN VANCOUVER

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that he will meet with foreign ministers of the six member-countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for pre-G-7 consultations in Vancouver, May 9-11. Mr. Raymond Chan, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific), will also take part in the meeting.

"The ASEAN countries are becoming increasingly important in international affairs and are a key market of the future. I look forward to discussing issues of global importance to both G-7 and southeast Asian countries," said Mr. Ouellet.

The Minister invited his ASEAN colleagues to come to Canada for pre-Halifax Summit consultations at the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference (PMC) in Bangkok last July. The purpose of the Vancouver meeting is to exchange views on a wide range of political and economic issues of mutual interest in advance of the Halifax Summit.

The ASEAN countries will be represented in Vancouver by: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam; His Excellency Ali Alatas, Foreign Minister of Indonesia; His Excellency Datuk Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, Foreign Minister of Malaysia; His Excellency Lim Hng Kiang, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore; His Excellency Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand; and His Excellency Rudolfo Severino, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines. The ASEAN Secretary-General, His Excellency Dato' Ajit Singh, will also participate in the consultations.

Since becoming an ASEAN "dialogue partner" in 1977, Canada has participated in the annual Post-Ministerial Conference, held after the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, which provides opportunities for exchanges on regional and global concerns. The 1995 PMC will be held in Brunei in August.

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