



# communiqué

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## SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TO ATTEND ASEAN POST MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, will attend the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference in Singapore, June 18-20, 1987. The Post Ministerial Conference has taken place yearly since 1979; it immediately follows ASEAN's own annual ministerial meeting, and is attended by the Foreign Ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and their "dialogue" partners from Australia, Canada, the European Community, Japan, New Zealand and the United States. The ASEAN Members States are: Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

During the Conference, Mr. Clark will exchange views with ASEAN Ministers on trade, industrial and development cooperation between Canada and ASEAN. The Ministers will also discuss international and regional questions of mutual interest, including issues on the agendas of the Venice Summit and the NATO ministerial meeting. Mr. Clark will take the opportunity as well to meet bilaterally with a number of his counterparts at the Conference.

1987 marks the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Economic Cooperation Agreement between Canada and ASEAN which aims to enhance two-way trade, investment, and technical cooperation. Canada is now providing some \$6 million per year for regional development projects requested by ASEAN, as well as funds for a variety of industrial cooperation activities. This is in addition to bilateral development assistance to the member countries of ASEAN which now amounts to almost \$100 million annually. The Canada-ASEAN relationship continues to grow, and there are an increasing number of contacts for the purpose of consultation and coordinated action in areas of mutual interest, most notably with respect to the new round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. Canada and ASEAN share common concerns in the liberalization of world trade, especially in the areas of upgraded resources and agriculture.