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## Thailand PM Makes Official Visit to Canada

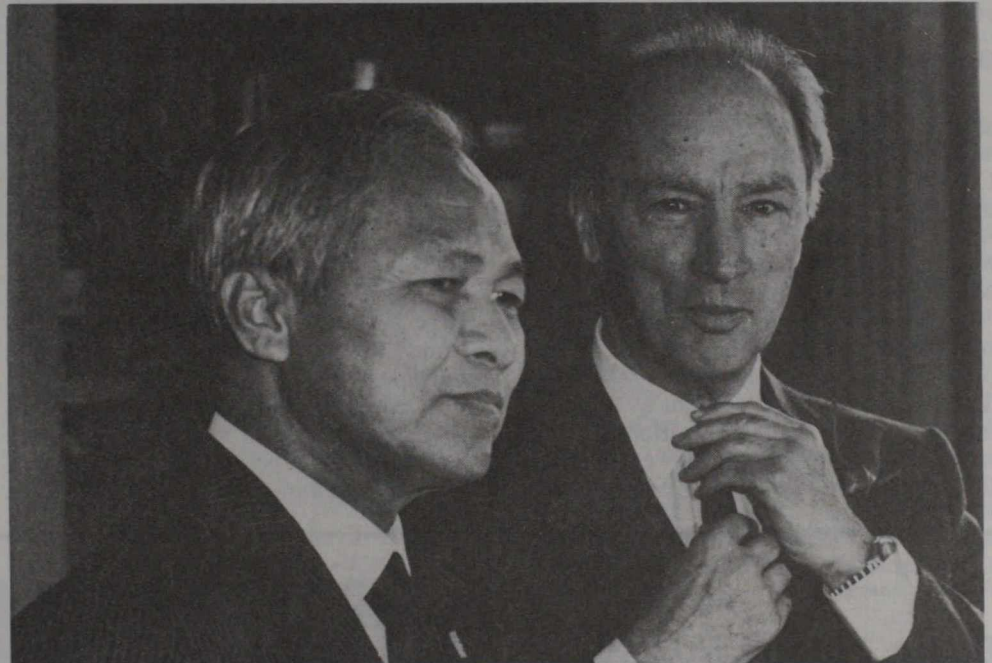
Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanond undertook a highly successful visit to Canada from April 8 to 12th. General Prem, leading an 84-person delegation of ministers, business executives and officials, began this first official visit to Canada by a Thai prime minister in Vancouver, Canada's gateway city to the Pacific Rim. General Prem was accompanied by Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila, Agriculture Minister Narong Wongwan, Commerce Minister Kosol Krairiksh and Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office, Flying Officer Sulee Mahasanthana. The main objectives of the visit were to reaffirm the excellent bilateral relations between Thailand and Canada; to discuss individual issues of common interest; and to encourage increased trade and investment.

### First Stop: Vancouver

The Thai Prime Minister was greeted in Vancouver by the Honourable Gerald Regan, Canada's Minister for International Trade, who accompanied him to a meeting with the Government of the Province of British Columbia hosted by Premier William Bennett. A briefing followed on EXPO 86, Canada's International Transportation and Communications Exposition to be held in Vancouver in two years at which Thai participation in the Fair was confirmed. In addition, a presentation was given to the Thai delegation of Canadian capabilities in the area of light rapid transit systems suitable for use in the Bangkok metropolis.

The Vancouver Board of Trade was the venue for a major luncheon address during which Prime Minister Prem focussed on business opportunities and encouraged investors to give serious consideration to Thailand. Prem described Thailand as offering an economic base and rapid growth rate which constitutes an attractive location for Canadians to seek joint venture and investment opportunities. In amplification of this important speech a number of senior Thai economic and commercial representatives led by Dr. Snoh Unakul, Secretary General of Thailand's National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), presented an impressive audio-visual description of the investment

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Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau welcomes General Prem Tinsulanond on his official visit to Canada, 8-12 April.

### Canada-Singapore Air Services Begin January 1985

Air Canada has set mid-January 1985 as the target date for the beginning of regular flights between Canada and Singapore. The other major Canadian carrier, Canadian Pacific Airlines, hopes to begin its flights later in 1985.

Both Canadian airlines will be flying to Singapore as a result of the air services agreement recently negotiated between civil aviation authorities of Singapore and Canada. The agreement is expected to be signed in Singapore in June.

The agreement was completed after one of the quickest and smoothest negotiating sessions ever experienced by either side. It took only three days of discussions in late January to put together a liberal arrangement for air services between the two countries.

Under the agreement Air Canada will be able to operate flights to Singapore via an Atlantic routing; while Canadian Pacific Airlines will be authorized to serve Singapore via the Pacific.

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### Les Grands Ballets Canadiens on Asian Tour

On 7 May, Les Grands Ballet Canadiens will begin their two-month tour of the Far East which will take this world-renowned dance company to Bangkok and Singapore as well as Japan, China, Hong Kong and Korea.

Coming from its regular spring performances in New York, "Les Grands", as the troupe is affectionately known, is acclaimed for its varied repertory which draws its sources not only from the great classical tradition but also from contemporary works by Canadian and foreign choreographers.

Les Grands will give two performances in Bangkok June 3-4 under the auspices of Siam Kolkarn Music Foundation. In addition, they will take part in a gala dinner 2 June at which time they will present a short program featuring a ballet specially choreographed to a composition by His Majesty King Bhumipol Adulyadaj.

Following these performances, the troupe will travel to Singapore for performances 8-9-10 June, inaugurating the three-week long Singapore Festival of Arts.

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