

- To strengthen their relationship, Canada and Vietnam are negotiating a series of agreements. An economic co-operation agreement and a development co-operation agreement were signed during the Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister's visit to Canada in June of this year. Agreements currently being negotiated cover such areas as trade, avoidance of double taxation and mutual legal assistance.

Official Development Assistance

- Vietnam's eligibility for official development assistance was restored in March 1990, following Vietnam's withdrawal from Cambodia and the start of its extensive program of economic renewal.
- Since 1990, Canada has contributed some \$41 million to Vietnam in official development assistance. Of this total, \$23.8 million was disbursed in food aid and humanitarian assistance, and \$11.3 million was given to Canadian institutions and private firms to support their development activities in Vietnam. Annual disbursements amount to about \$12 million per year.
- A strategy for Canadian assistance to Vietnam has been developed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The agency is now poised to expand bilateral co-operation and begin implementing long-term programs that will:
 - focus on increasing Vietnam's capacity to plan and manage its ambitious economic and social reforms;
 - support human resource development and technology transfer in the environment, transportation, information technology, energy and education sectors;
 - support the development of a legal and institutional base that will enhance private sector development in Vietnam;
 - encourage aspects of Vietnam's reform agenda that promote social equity, poverty reduction, environmental protection, human rights promotion, the rule of law, and public participation; and
 - foster the integration of Vietnam in Southeast Asia by supporting regional programs and activities and by encouraging Vietnam's participation in regional dialogues and exchanges in such areas as the environment and legal reform.