



The Canadian delegation at talks with Thai officials. (Left to right): Canada's Ambassador to Thailand Fred Bild; Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan; Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs W.T. Delworth; and Vice-President of the Canadian International Development Agency Lewis Perinbam.

CANEX 82, an exhibition on the transfer of technology which is being held in Singapore and is being attended by 21 Canadian companies.

On the subject of development co-operation, Secretary of State for External Affairs MacGuigan spoke of the ASEAN-Canada Forestry Seed Centre and the Fisheries Post-Harvest Technology Project. Dr. MacGuigan also mentioned several new programs offered by the Canadian International Development Agency which would serve to broaden co-operation between Canada and ASEAN countries.

Dr. MacGuigan told the meeting that "Canada's support for and interest in ASEAN stems from a strong political commitment. We have been impressed by ASEAN's growth and sense of common destiny, and by the economic and social progress you have been able to achieve in the region which has been an essential underpinning for peace and stability".

The minister added that Canada would co-operate with the ASEAN nations in the search for a peaceful settlement in Cambodia which would lead to a removal of foreign occupation troops in that land, provide for the Khmer people to choose their own government free from external pressure and halt the flow of refugees.

Dr. MacGuigan said that the Canadian government would not provide development aid to Vietnam as long as troops from that country occupied Cambodia. "At the same time we shall continue to share the refugee burden that has fallen in the first instance on the shoulders of

the people of the countries of ASEAN," he added. Canada has accepted more than 70 000 Indochinese refugees to date.

Visit to Thailand

Following his attendance at the ASEAN meeting in Singapore, Secretary of State for External Affairs MacGuigan visited Thailand at the invitation of Foreign Minister Siddhi Sawetsila. It was the first visit of a Canadian external affairs minister to that country.

During their meetings, Dr. MacGuigan and Mr. Siddhi examined a number of multilateral and bilateral questions including Canadian aid, Indochinese refugees, the Canada-ASEAN relationship and the North-South dialogue. The two ministers discussed trade and expressed their desire for increased business contacts between the two countries. Dr. MacGuigan and Mr. Siddhi also spoke of Canadian participation in the energy, transportation and agricultural sectors in Thailand.

At a dinner in his honour, Dr. MacGuigan said: "Fifteen years ago there was no Canadian embassy in Bangkok. Trade was almost non-existent. Our development co-operation program was minimal. In short, we were beyond each other's horizons — politically, economically and socially. It is indicative perhaps of a changing world that we are now very much in each other's view and that is how it should be. For when one looks beyond the superficial dissimilarities of our two countries, one finds

a deeper commonality".

Dr. MacGuigan met with Thailand's Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda for talks on the regional situation and prospects for Canada-ASEAN co-operation. The two also discussed the upcoming visit to Thailand of Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

The Canadian external affairs minister took the opportunity to visit the Thai-Cambodian border and the Lahansai project. Dr. MacGuigan announced a contribution towards the project by the Canadian International Development Agency. The Canadian funding will help increase agricultural production by providing an irrigation system for the more than 6 000 residents. During his visit to the border, Dr. MacGuigan expressed Canada's congratulations during Thailand's celebration this year of the bicentennial of the Chakri dynasty and the founding of the capital city of Bangkok.

Immigrant worker restriction

A temporary restriction on selected workers coming to Canada to seek employment went into effect in May.

The ban, that had been announced by Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy in April, was in response to the current unemployment situation and applies to all immigrants who are subject to a labour-market test. Excluded from the restriction are those with pre-arranged employment.

"I want to ensure that Canadians have the first opportunity for jobs in this country, and thus I believe this policy under present circumstances is essential," Mr. Axworthy said in making the announcement. "There are, however, still some shortages in specific industries in Canada which cannot be met from within the country and in these instances, after careful review, we will validate job offers to enable Canadian employers to meet skill needs," he continued.

The minister also pointed out that such requests by Canadian employers have been dropping significantly during the past months.

The restriction applies only to immigrants destined to the labour market. It will not reduce the number of family class immigrants or refugees, who may benefit indirectly because some foreign posts will be able to provide faster service. Processing times for immigrant workers still needed in Canada will also be reduced.