



**Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew
of Singapore**

Development assistance would be drawn up for future consideration in the fields of forestry and reforestation, oceanography, agricultural research, mineral surveys and development, and transportation techniques.

Greater efforts

Both sides agreed that, though the two-way trade between Canada and ASEAN countries had doubled in the years from 1970 to 1975, the potential for further expansion in both trade and industrial co-operation called for greater efforts to be made in developing the opportunities available. ASEAN representatives raised the question of improving access to the Canadian market for ASEAN goods, and this led to a discussion of the relative advantages and disadvantages of the Canadian generalized system of preferences (GSP) and of various ways in which ASEAN trade promotion and marketing could be assisted. Interest also focused on ways to increase investment in ASEAN countries and on the respective roles of government and private industry in this field. The Canadian side indicated the ways in which the government helped private companies through trade missions and EDC financing, and in joint ventures, especially in those fields where Canada had demonstrated expertise.

The Manila meeting closed with an agreement to hold the next session of the dialogue in Canada in May 1977, the exact timing and the agenda to be determined in subsequent communications between Canada and the ASEAN National Co-ordinating Agency in Manila. However, it became apparent that, if adequate preparation for the next meeting was to be made by both

sides, it would have to be delayed. A principal factor in this was the formidable schedule of meetings including the Kuala Lumpur summit meeting that stretched before ASEAN through to the autumn of 1977. After extensive consultation, it was finally agreed that the second session of the Canada-ASEAN dialogue would take place in Ottawa on October 31 and November 1.

Trade, development assistance and industrial co-operation were the main subjects dealt with at this meeting. The questions of improving access to the Canadian market and of obtaining a greater share of that market for ASEAN goods were discussed at length. It was pointed out that under the most-favoured-nation policy and the Canadian GSP, ASEAN and other developing countries enjoyed duty-free entry of 83 per cent of all their exports to Canada but that consideration would be given to the ASEAN request for adjustments during the annual review of the GSP. It was also suggested by the Canadian side that further consideration of the ASEAN position would be given within the context of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The various ways in which Canada could assist ASEAN export promotion through the facilities of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce were outlined.

Set aside

In the development-assistance field, it was agreed that the proposed regional-satellite communications project would be set aside for the time being because of recent advances in communications within ASEAN. On the regional air-transportation project, it was agreed that ASEAN would produce a clearly-defined proposal related to training for consideration by Canada in the near future. Canada indicated that work on the regional fisheries project was well advanced and would be ready for study by ASEAN in the new year. Canada agreed to consider further the possibility of assistance in forestry and port development.

The Canadian side indicated that a more extensive program of industrial co-operation was being examined and, if it were approved, could provide a new and fruitful means of co-operation with ASEAN.

The meeting was brought to a close with agreement in principle on a Canadian proposal for the establishment of a group in Ottawa, composed of representatives from the ASEAN diplomatic missions and of Canadian officials, to act as a consulting mechanism in dealing with Canada-ASEAN matters. It was agreed that the next session of the dialogue should be held in one of the ASEAN countries at a time to be determined later.