

CANADA - ASEAN

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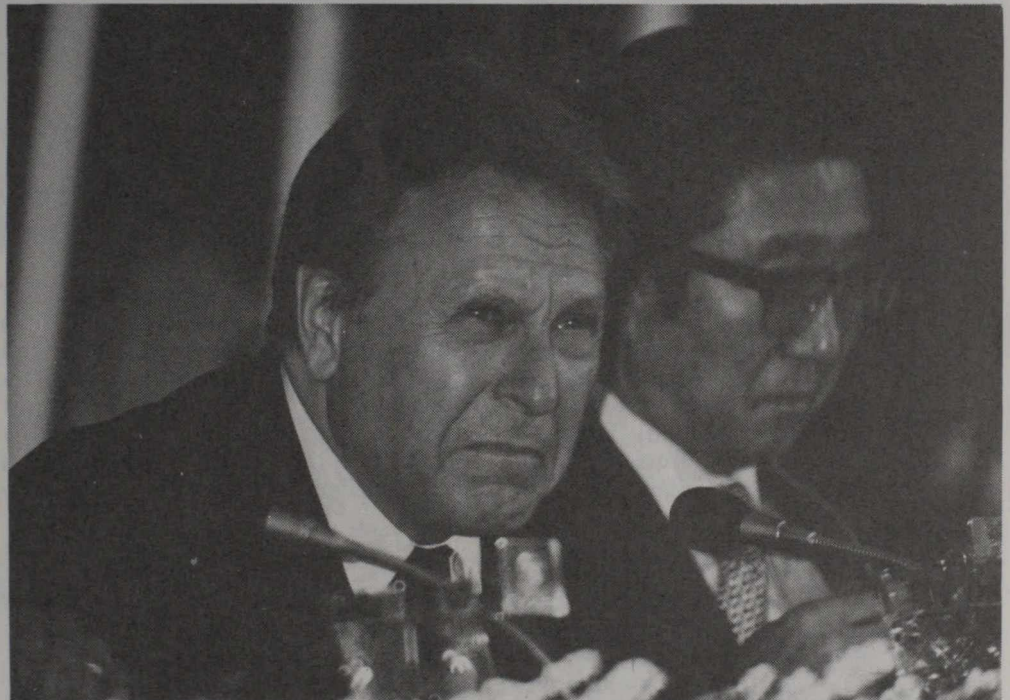


JULY-SEPTEMBER 1983



Secretary of State for External Affairs Attends ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference

On June 27-28, the Honourable Allan J MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs (SSEA), visited Bangkok to attend the Post Ministerial Conference, which followed the annual meeting of ASEAN Foreign Ministers. The Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs has attended each of these meetings since 1980, but it was the first time for Mr MacEachen since his appointment as SSEA last year. His attendance was particularly appropriate as it was he who had, in an earlier tenure as SSEA, made the announcement in Jakarta in 1976 that Canada wished to become a dialogue partner with ASEAN. Mr MacEachen noted in his opening remarks that this gave his visit to Bangkok a special satisfaction.



The Hon. Allan MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, attends the closing press conference after the dialogue sessions with ASEAN Foreign Ministers.

Follow-up to Trudeau Visit

Following the successful visit of Prime Minister Trudeau to ASEAN in January 1983 and the subsequent visit of the Minister of State for International Trade, Gerald Regan, Mr MacEachen's attendance at the ASEAN dialogue meeting provided a unique chance to reaffirm commitments made by Canada during those earlier visits.

In his meeting with the ASEAN

Foreign Ministers, Mr MacEachen emphasized the importance Canada attaches to the expansion of two-way trade and economic relations with ASEAN. He noted that despite the world recession, Canada-ASEAN trade had continued to grow, surpassing the \$1-billion mark set in 1982. Mr MacEachen and his ASEAN colleagues also discussed the world economic situation and Mr MacEachen used the occasion to provide a briefing on the Williamsburg Summit which he had recently attended.

Throughout his meetings and his interviews with the press, Mr MacEachen reinforced Canada's continuing support for ASEAN in the search for a solution to the Cambodian problem. He endorsed once again the relevant UN resolutions and the settlement formula proposed by the International Conference on Kampuchea and expressed continuing Canadian support for the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea. At the same time, he noted that Canada had contributed \$28-million to Cambodian relief operations since 1979 and said Canada would continue to support these efforts as long as there were displaced Khmers along the border.

ASEAN pleased with Canadian dialogue

The Ministers noted with satisfaction the significant progress which has been made in Canada-ASEAN relations over a relatively short period of time. Looking to the future, they considered that the development of more people-to-people contacts was a very promising avenue. The Canadian initiative to establish the Asia-Pacific Foundation was cited as a constructive step in this direction.

Parallel to the dialogue meeting with the ASEAN Foreign Ministers, Mr MacEachen also held bilateral talks with the Foreign Ministers of Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, Australia and New Zealand and the USA Secretary of State. This round of meetings provided further impetus to Canada's efforts to develop its relations with the countries of the Pacific Rim.

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