

THAILAND
FACT SHEET

1. **PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

	<u>Thailand</u>	<u>Canada</u>
Area:	500,000 sq. km.	9,203,054 sq. km.
Land Use:	35% cultivated; 41.4% forests; 3.3% permanent crops; 20.6% other	7.3% agriculture; 35% forest; 54% wild- erness (including 8.2% water); 2.8% other

2. **DEMOGRAPHY** (1982 estimates unless otherwise indicated)

Population:	48 million	24.625 million
Average Annual Growth:	2.0%	1%
Population Density:	94 inhabitants per sq. km.	2.6 inhabitants (1981) per sq. km.
Population Distribution:	85.5% rural	75.7% urban
Birth Rate per 1,000:	28	15.5 (1980)
Infant Mortality per 1,000:	68	10.4 (1980)
Life Expectancy:	61 years	74 years
Doctors per 1,000:	0.08	1.86
Refugees:	5,600 Vietnamese boat people 86,000 Lao 93,000 Khmer 200,000 displaced persons on Thai/ Cambodian border	

3. **SOCIETY**

Ethnic Composition:

Thais 75%; Chinese 14%; other minorities 11%

Religion:

Buddism is the state religion and is practised by over 90% of the population. The remainder are Muslims and Christians.

Language:

Thai is the official language. English is the secondary language and is spoken by large numbers of the elite. Residents in the northeast speak a Lao dialect. Mandarin is the main dialect of the Chinese population.

4. **GOVERNMENT**

Head of State:

King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanonda

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Air Chief Marshall Siddhi Savetsila

Type of Government:

Thailand is a constitutional monarchy with a strong central government. Parliament is bicameral with an elected 301-member House of Representatives and