

Canadian support. Various ASEAN countries are important members of OPEC, the Islamic conference, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of 77, the Cairns Group and the North-South Dialogue. Canada's political attitude towards ASEAN also derives from such factors as the Commonwealth relationship with three of its members (Singapore, Brunei and Malaysia), major development assistance programs in Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines, and the large number of immigrants from Southeast Asia in Canada. Canada's acceptance of some 105,000 Indochinese refugees since 1975 has earned Canada considerable credit with ASEAN governments.

Trade and Economic Relations

Canada is a substantial importer of natural resource commodities from ASEAN. Total two-way trade between Canada and ASEAN in 1987 was CDN \$1.8 billion. While ASEAN only imports about 1% of total Canadian exports, there is considerable scope for an expansion of trade in both directions. Canadian exports to ASEAN rank ahead of exports to France or Italy. In 1986, Canada's trade with ASEAN, as a whole, was in deficit for the first time. CIDA/Industrial Cooperation Division (INC) has provided a grant of \$100,000. to the Canadian Chambers of Commerce toward the costs of studies and programs which should contribute to expanding the interest of Canadian companies in trade and investment in ASEAN. Additionally, Canada will finance market development visits and market information seminars in Canada for ASEAN business representatives. In December 1986 the ASEAN-Canada Business Council was created jointly by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the ASEAN Chambers of Commerce and Industry to foster closer mutual understanding and promote closer business relationships between Canada and the six countries of ASEAN.

Development Cooperation

Until 1986, development cooperation had centered primarily on natural resource development and transfer of technology. Given the rapid growth in the economies of ASEAN, assistance has been evolving towards a greater emphasis on industrial cooperation and, more particularly, human resources development, an area where Canada is making a major initiative. Following announcements by the SSEA at the PMC in Singapore last June, an ASEAN Human Resources Development Fund was established with funding of \$750,000 for study tours and training, primarily for government personnel. An ASEAN scholarship fund has also been established with funding of \$60,000 to permit approximately 30 person years of diploma and graduate training in Canadian educational institutions. Canada will also establish a Canada-ASEAN Centre to support and facilitate ASEAN-wide development cooperation activities.