

co-operation. The steps being taken by all countries of the region to develop their economies in a manner which will lead to a closer partnership among them are a particularly encouraging sign of increasing cohesion. I believe that ASEAN's objective of providing cultural co-operation should also serve as an important unifying factor. Furthermore, I consider it significant that ASEAN is open to all countries of the region that subscribe to its principles. It may be unrealistic to think that the membership of the association is likely to be expanded in the near future, but the commitment to an outward-looking policy sets an example for the whole region.

In my view, ASEAN is helping to provide the instruments to counteract the uncertainties which still cloud the future of the region. It can do this in a particularly effective way through the promotion of regional prosperity, which I regard as an essential element of political stability. It is apparent that progress is being made in this direction and I should like to take this opportunity to applaud the contribution that Indonesia is making to the realization of the concept.

In his speech to the ASEAN summit conference, which Indonesia hosted in Bali earlier this year, President Soeharto dealt in a realistic and constructive way with the relation between the internal security of the ASEAN countries, and economic development. He made a convincing case for the need for regional co-operation, without minimizing the difficulties involved. I am confident that his message of realism and inspiration contributed greatly to the success of this first ASEAN summit since the inception of the organization.

To express our support in concrete terms, Canada has made an offer to ASEAN of development assistance for regional projects identified by the five member countries. The possibility of Canadian assistance for studies of a regional satellite communication system and a regional transportation system are currently being examined. During his visit here earlier this year my colleague, Mr. Jamieson, pledged Canada's support in principle for a study of an ASEAN industrial co-operation project in a sector in which Canada has special expertise -- e.g., newsprint, pulp and paper, and potash. I have also informed the Indonesian Government that Canada is prepared to establish a scholarship programme for post-graduate students selected by ASEAN to study in Canada in disciplines which can further ASEAN's objectives of regional co-operation. It is my hope that such assistance will supplement the efforts made by ASEAN member countries to achieve closer co-operation.