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VISIT TO OTTAWA OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF
THAILAND, AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIDDHI SAVETSILA
APRIL 30 - MAY 2

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, announced today that the Foreign Minister of Thailand, Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila, will pay an official visit to Canada April 30-May 2, 1981. The visit will allow for a review of multilateral and bilateral issues of interest to both countries.

Canada/Thai relations, which have traditionally been very good, have become closer in the past few years in response to developments in Southeast Asia in particular the outpouring of refugees from Indochina. Thailand, as the front-line country of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in this situation, has borne the brunt of the security threat posed by the continued occupation of Kampuchea by foreign forces. Thailand has also accepted over 500,000 Indochinese refugees within its borders since 1975.

Canada has supported initiatives of the ASEAN countries in the United Nations which have sought a peaceful solution to the security situation in Kampuchea. Canada has also contributed over \$20 million to UN programmes which have provided humanitarian assistance to Kampuchean in both Kampuchea and Thailand as well as to persons displaced by the refugee influx into Thailand.

The visit of Foreign Minister Siddhi reflects the importance which both Canada and Thailand attach to the broadening of relations.