

In both economic and political terms, Singapore has assumed an importance which belies its size. In international organizations, such as the UN, the IMF or GATT, Singapore has established a reputation for the reasonableness and moderation it has brought to bear on positions adopted by developing country groups, for example, with respect to issues arising within the North/South Dialogue. It is often the most forceful and articulate spokesman for ASEAN.

#### CANADA-SINGAPORE RELATIONS

Canada enjoys sound, if somewhat limited, relations with Singapore as a result of the Commonwealth bond, a similar outlook on international problems and Canada's support for ASEAN. Canadian exports to Singapore totalled \$167.9 million in 1987, compared to imports of \$261.0 million. Bilateral agreements cover investment, double taxation and EDC financing through the five major Canadian banks, which are all represented in Singapore. Singapore has demonstrated a high level of interest with regards to the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. Canada and Singapore renegotiated their bilateral air agreement in May 1987. Ontario and Quebec have both opened offices in Singapore. At the present time, there are an estimated 2,000 Singaporean students in various educational institutions across Canada. The Secretary of State for External Affairs was in Singapore in June 1987 for the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference. Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Vancouver in October 1987.