

should provide subsidized financing rates to be competitive with bidders from other countries. Much of the meeting was reportedly dominated by the subject of subsidized financing by exporting countries.

Reporters asked Mr. Trudeau the next day about the outcome of these talks. Mr. Trudeau said that Mr. Lee had made it quite clear that concessional financing was something to be looked at later in the process, and that there were other considerations, such as regional employment, transfer of technology and transfer of investment, which would be considered in the package. He said that Canada would consider concessional financing if it were to make a difference in a very important contract. Calling the current practice of some countries, including Canada, to lower interest rates below their market value to obtain contracts "a mug's game," Mr. Trudeau said that it would be preferable if competitors reached an agreement amongst themselves to put an end to the practice.

At the news conference, Mr. Trudeau was also asked what impact he thought his visit would make on Canadian export possibilities to Singapore. He said, "Singaporean businessmen will want to look at the best possible product at the best possible prices, and my coming here has only the effect, maybe, of only jogging the memory of businessmen and officials in Singapore who are courted daily by much more numerous businessmen and politicians from the United States, or Britain or Germany or France whose presence in this part of the world pre-dates Canadian presence by a long shot."

The Prime Minister also discussed Canadian support for the ASEAN initiative for the stabilization of Kampuchea (Cambodia). He said that he did not think that the main players in the settlement of the problem would be Canada, or even the ASEAN countries, but Peking and Moscow. The ASEAN countries want to ensure that a withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea would not create a vacuum to be filled by the Khmer Rouge. They want the establishment of a coalition government not dominated by the Khmer Rouge. "Canada does not intend to be, nor can it be, a major player in that game. We will continue to support the ASEAN initiative which we think is the right one, including the strengthening of the non-Communist forces in the coalition, and we are saying so, but not by supplying arms or anything like that," Mr. Trudeau said.

Malaysia

At the Singapore news conference January 8, the day before the Prime Minister's arrival in Malaysia, reporters asked question regarding the detention and execution of suspected "subversives" in Malaysia. In that country there exists a vaguely-worded Internal Security Act, enacted in 1960, which permits hearsay evidence, the suspension of normal judicial procedure, arbitrary detention and the death penalty for juvenile offenders. Nearly 400 people are believed to be held under this act. Amnesty International had sent Prime Minister Trudeau a detailed report on Malaysia, claiming that some prisoners of conscience have been held without trial since 1968 (*Globe and Mail*, January 10).

It was asked whether Mr. Trudeau intended to express concern to his hosts in Kuala Lumpur. Because the Prime Minister would be visiting other countries, such as the Philippines and Indonesia, where groups such as Amnesty International and international legal bodies have docu-

mented human rights violations, the Prime Minister said he would "try and standardize his answer." He explained, "I don't visit other countries with the intention of telling them how they should run their own affairs. I don't have the authority to do so and, in many cases, I don't have the knowledge to do so. I often seek occasions, and find them, for telling leaders of those countries that relations with Canada would be better and their reputation in the democratic world, with whom they want to maintain good relations, would be improved if they did such and so . . . but I always do it under the guise of saying, 'Look, my suggestions are humanitarian; they're not based on any desire to tell you how to run your country. I just want to tell you that from a humanitarian point of view we would like it if you could do such and so and our friendship would be enhanced.'"

Mr. Trudeau arrived in Kuala Lumpur on January 9, and on January 10, met with a dozen business leaders and also with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. It was reported that trade officials from both Malaysia and Canada viewed the Prime Minister's visit to Kuala Lumpur as an opportunity to break the pattern of stagnation in trade between the two countries that had set in last year. The visit was also expected to raise the profile of Canadian engineering consulting firms, whose staffs will be bidding for development contracts in the forestry, urban development and mining sectors during the next few years (*Globe and Mail*, January 10).

Asked at the press conference January 10 about the trade discussions, Mr. Trudeau said that he had conveyed to Malaysian leaders that Canadians don't ask for any special treatment, but just want to be recognized as being advanced in many areas of development and invited to bid and submit offers on many projects. Mr. Trudeau said that he had mentioned some specific projects, such as forestry, urban development and energy projects, pipelines, thermal electrical production, communication and transportation. He said Canada was able to give a general guarantee that it would not see projects lost because of concessional financing from its competitors.

Mr. Trudeau was also asked if he had raised the human rights question with Prime Minister Mohamad. He replied that the general situation in Southeast Asia had been discussed at great length, and that he had briefly raised the question of internal security measures, "but I won't pretend that a great discussion ensued on that."

At this press conference, Mr. Trudeau admitted that his aides were concerned about the image at home that coverage of his leisure activities in Asia would inspire. Prime Minister Trudeau had twice earlier cancelled the Asian trip when it was decided that because of the poor performance of the Canadian economy, he should stay in Canada instead of touring around. In the past, as on this trip, the Canadian press had given much attention to the Prime Minister's free-time activities, often photographing him dancing in local garb.

Indonesia

On January 11, Mr. Trudeau flew to Jakarta, Indonesia, where he again met with Canadian businessmen. They had been involved in an issue about counter-trade with Indonesia over the Canadian share of the Bukit Asam rail, port and coal-handling project. Two hundred million dollars were owed to Canadian firms. Indonesia had demanded