

Women's Issues Of Particular Concern For Maureen McTeer

While the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, was attending the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference in Kuala Lumpur, his wife, Maureen McTeer, was involved in an equally active programme of her own. Having expressed an interest in meeting with Malaysian women to discuss issues such as law reform, the role of women in society, and opportunities for women in the workforce, Ms. McTeer's programme in Kuala Lumpur put her in touch with some of the most influential women in Malaysia. She paid a call on the women's (Wanita) wing of the ruling party United Malay National Organisation (UMNO) to discuss women in politics and law with Puan Napsiah Omar, Deputy Minister of Housing and Local Government. She further explored the role of women in development and consumer issues at the Headquarters of the National Council of Women's Organisations (NCWO) with NCWO Executive Council Member, Puan Sri Sekher, and other NCWO representatives. A lively lunch held on July 13 at the residence of the Canadian High Commissioner brought together such dynamic women as The Honourable Madam Justice Siti Norma Ya'akob; Puan Noor Farida Ariffin, President of the Federation of Women Lawyers and Legal Advisor to the Economic Planning Unit (Prime Minister's Department) and of the Foreign Investments Committee; Puan Marina Yusof, lawyer and member of the Wanita UMNO Supreme Council; Dato'



Maureen McTeer is introduced to Puan Marina Yusoff, member of Wanita UMNO Supreme Council.

Paduka Hajjah Saleha Haji Mohd. Ali, social worker and Director of Syarikat Pembinaan Setia; and other notable women from law and business. Discussions centred primarily around law and law reform, and the respective legal backgrounds of both countries.

Other items on Ms. McTeer's programme included a call on Y.A.B. Datin Seri Dr. Siti Hasmah Haji Mohd. Ali, wife of Prime Minister Mahathir; lunch with Tengku Nor Aini Rithauddeen, wife of Foreign Minister Rithauddeen; and a briefing by the Malaysian Campaign Against Drug Abuse.

"Twinning Concept" Realized

The "International Workshop on Development" held in Penang brought together representatives of a number of YMCAs in Alberta and Malaysia.

The workshop was jointly funded by the YMCAs of Alberta and Malaysia, the Alberta Agency for International Development and the Canadian International Development Agency. Charged with reviewing existing cooperation programmes and providing a forum for YMCA leaders to plan joint ventures for the next four years, the workshop also served to establish and reinforce valuable personal relationships between Malaysians and Canadians at the important non-governmental level. One outcome of the workshop was the introduction of the "Twinning Concept" whereby individual YMCAs in Alberta will be linked to counterpart YMCAs in Malaysia.

Alberta's participation in the workshop was coordinated by Mr. Gerry Cragg of the Red Deer YMCA, who led the Canadian delegation of 14.

The Malaysian delegation of 18 was headed by Mr. Wong Yeng Choon, President of the National Council of YMCAs of Malaysia.

In delivering the keynote address, the Canadian High Commissioner, Mr. Manfred G. Von Nostitz focussed on the significant role non-governmental organizations can play in "building bridges between nations and people". He added that the Alberta-Malaysia International Workshop was a particularly good example of cooperation at the non-governmental roots level.



Foreign Minister Joe Clark in conversation with Finance Minister Encik Daim Zainuddin during his visit to Malaysia.