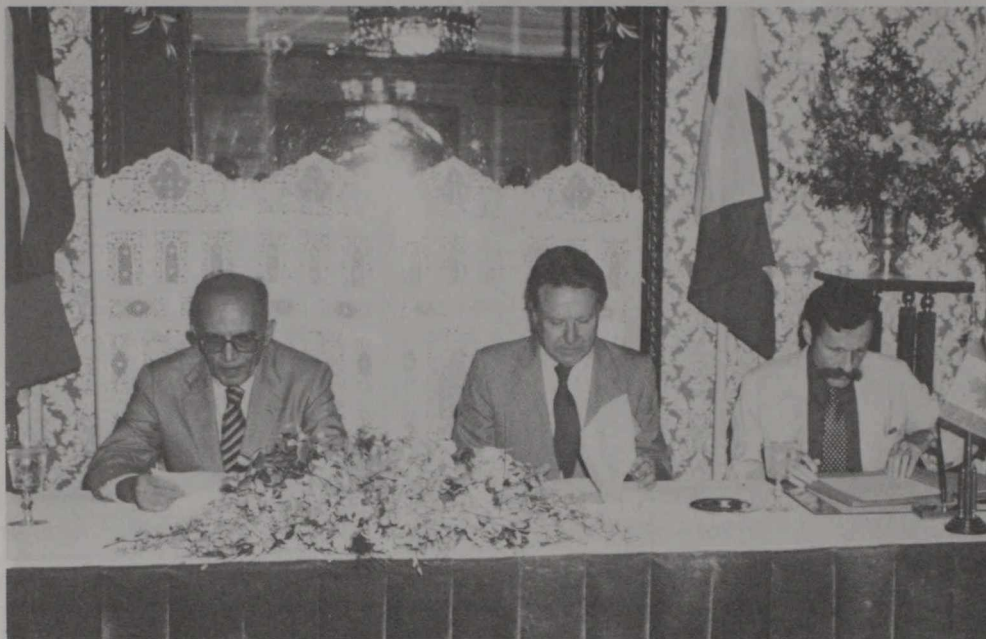


Around the Region

THAILAND

Minister's Visit Enhances Bilateral Ties



Deputy PM A. MacEachen (centre) and Foreign Minister H.E. Siddhi Savetsila (left) witness the signing ceremony for Canadian assistance. Ambassador F. Bild (right) signed on behalf of Canada.

While in Bangkok to attend the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Post Ministerial Conference with Dialogue Partners, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan MacEachen held fruitful discussions on bilateral issues with the Thai Foreign Minister, H.E. Siddhi Savetsila. The two Ministers noted with pleasure that agreement in principle has now been reached on a Double Taxation Agreement between Canada and Thailand.

For his part, Mr MacEachen announced that Canada would provide a grant of \$3.9-million for the application of Landsat remote sensing technology in Thailand. The grant will help to

upgrade Southeast Asia's only ground-receiving station at Lad Krabong and will finance the provision of Canadian technical assistance. (See accompanying article)

Mr MacEachen also announced a Canadian grant of \$10.7 million for mineral resources development in Thailand, under which Canadian personnel will apply their expertise to a number of Thai mining projects and Thai personnel will travel to Canada for advanced training.

The visit of Mr MacEachen capped a series of high-level Canadian missions to Thailand, reflecting the rapid growth of Thai-Canadian cooperation in political, economic, and technical fields.

Thailand to Participate in Expo 86

During Mr MacEachen's visit, Foreign Minister H.E. Siddhi Savetsila announced that Thailand would participate in Expo 86, the 1986 World Exposition on transportation and related communications to be held from May 2 to October 13 in Vancouver, British Columbia. Thailand joins Indonesia among the ASEAN nations deciding to take part in Expo 86.

The fair will provide a unique opportunity for member countries of ASEAN to strengthen, both individually and collectively, their image in the North American marketplace. Whether the message is to promote tourism, encourage investment, establish joint ventures,

or seek markets for their products, Expo 86 in Vancouver will serve as an excellent vehicle to portray the dynamism and growth potential of ASEAN.

Given the significance and importance of ASEAN in the Asia-Pacific context, organisers are considering the possibility of grouping pavilions of ASEAN participating countries together to create a focal point.

Vancouver is the largest port on the west coast of the Americas and the largest wheat port in the world. As Canada's gateway to the Pacific, Vancouver B.C. offers an ideal setting for a world fair with the theme "Man in Motion".

CIDA assists Thailand with High Technology

A significant share of CIDA's new development assistance program with Thailand will be directed to human resource development, transfer of technology and institution building in the modern sector focusing on high technology for natural resource management and development. To commence the new five-year program of assistance in this sector, the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada and Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Royal Thai Government for two major projects, the mineral resources development project valued at \$10.7 million and the Landsat remote sensing project value at \$3.9 million.

The mineral resources development project is a parallel financing arrangement between Thailand, Canada, and the Asian Development Bank for an airborne geophysical survey of Thailand, technical assistance, training and management services. The Canadian contribution will provide for professional and technical expertise to manage the overall project and train Thai personnel in interpreting geophysical data from the airborne survey and from remote sensing technology.

Canada will also provide up to 107 person-years of overseas training at the university level and substantial short-term technical assistance to the Department of Mineral Resources and the National Economic and Social Development Board in the field of minerals policy and minerals economics. Quality control for the overall project, including the aerial survey, is being provided by the Geological Survey of Canada.

Project Objectives

CIDA's goal is to strengthen the capabilities of the Department of Mineral Resources to plan and direct the development of Thailand's mineral wealth. The ultimate objective of this project is a new minerals policy for Thailand in which the government will provide the framework and define the preconditions. The actual development of the minerals will, however, be left to the private sector.

The Landsat remote sensing project provides for the up-grading of the ground receiving station outside Bangkok to enable it to receive and interpret data and signals transmitted by the new Landsat-4 satellite, as well as the provision of technical assistance, short-term training and a regional seminar on the applications of Landsat imagery.

The objective of the project is to provide Thailand's national remote sensing program with additional techno-