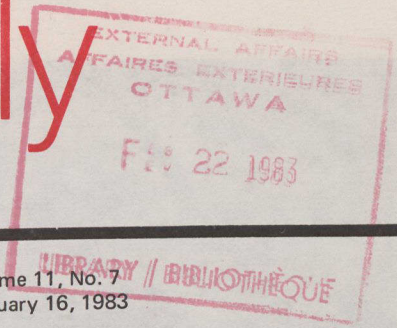


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Prime Minister tours Southeast Asian countries

Prime Minister Trudeau left Ottawa January 2 for an 18-day tour that included visits to seven countries of Southeast Asia. Accompanied by his nine-year-old son, Sacha, he boarded an armed forces *Boeing 707* flight to Honk Kong, and on January 4 arrived in Bangkok, the first official stop on his tour.

In steaming 32-degree Celsius heat, Mr. Trudeau was welcomed at the Don Muang airport by Thai Premier Prem Tinsulanond. A delegation of Canadian businessmen was also at the airport.

During the Prime Minister's three-day visit, three agreements were signed between the two countries. One was an agreement to exchange convicted criminals, a step that Canadian and Thai officials called "a milestone" in bilateral relations. Canada is the third Western country, after France and the United States, to reach a treaty of voluntary repatriation of prisoners which allows Thai and Canadian convicts to serve jail terms in their own countries. Seven Canadians are serving prison sentences in Thai jails, mostly on drug charges; one Thai is held in a Canadian prison.

Two other agreements, one guaranteeing official insurance on Canadian investment in Thailand and an aid agreement dealing with development co-operation, were designed to bolster bilateral trade. Mr. Trudeau said the three agreements were a sign of "increasing goodwill and co-operation" between the two countries and indicated the importance Canada and Thailand attached to the promotion of economic and technical co-operation for development.

During his meetings with the Thai Prime Minister and his Cabinet ministers, Mr. Trudeau discussed a wide range of economic and political issues. Subjects included the civil war in neighbouring Kampuchea. While refusing a request for direct military aid to the Democratic Kampuchean Coalition which is fighting to remove the Vietnamese-backed regime in Kampuchea, Mr. Trudeau

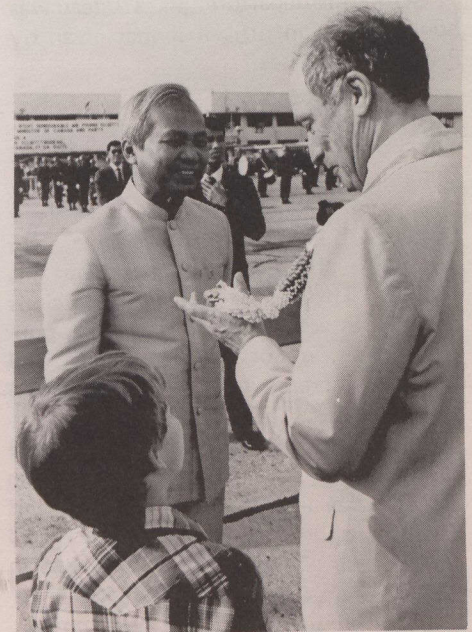
promised continued Canadian humanitarian aid for Indochinese refugees. He regretted, however, that Canada could not at present accept more refugees into the country in view of Canada's current recession and high rate of unemployment.

During his visit, Mr. Trudeau was granted an audience with His Royal Highness King Bhumibol and was guest of honour at an official dinner hosted by Prime Minister Prem at Government House.

Singapore

On January 7, Mr. Trudeau flew to Singapore. At an official welcome ceremony, he was greeted by Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and paid a visit to President C.V. Devan Nair.

During their meetings, the two prime ministers' discussions focused largely on trade issues. Singapore is Canada's biggest trading partner in the region: it sells Canada about \$175 million a year, mainly rubber and clothing, and buys \$150



Prime Minister Trudeau (right) and his son Sacha being greeted by Thai Prime Minister Prem.

Bob Cooper



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