



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

# communiqué

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VISIT TO THAILAND  
OF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
JUNE 19-21, 1982

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announced today that he will make an official visit to Thailand from June 19 to 21, 1982 at the invitation of the Foreign Minister of Thailand, Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Sawetsila. This will be the first visit of a Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs to Thailand and will reciprocate Foreign Minister Siddhi's visit to Ottawa in April, 1981.

Thai-Canadian relations, which have always been close, have been strengthened in the past three years through Canada's support for Thailand as a front-line state in the face of the threat which Thailand faces from the continued occupation of Cambodia by over 200,000 Vietnamese troops and the outpouring of refugees from Indochina, over 500,000 of whom have found first asylum in Thailand. Canada has been impressed by the humane manner in which Thailand has dealt with its serious refugee problems and has responded sympathetically. Canada has wanted to establish a more extensive and mutually beneficial relationship with Thailand founded on closer economic ties and aimed at supporting Thailand's desire to ensure its continued peace and stability through improving the standard of living of its people. This includes both the provision of development assistance and increased commercial linkages with Thailand's strong, free-market economy.

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