

CANADA-ASEAN

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Foreign Minister Chrétien Meets ASEAN Counterparts

On his first trip as Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada (SSEA), the Honourable Jean Chrétien led the Canadian delegation to the ASEAN Foreign Minister's Post Ministerial Conference with Dialogue Partners held in Jakarta on July 12 and 13. Mr. Chrétien noted in his opening remarks to the meeting that it was appropriate and symbolic that his first visit as Minister responsible for Canadian international relations was made to the Pacific.

In his meetings with ASEAN Foreign Ministers, Mr. Chrétien emphasized the importance which Canada has attached to strengthening and expanding economic ties with all ASEAN member countries. He described this effort as a key Canadian foreign policy objective. A full economic relationship, the SSEA added, would encompass increased two way trade; joint ventures and investment within both ASEAN and Canada; and a collective will to reduce impediments to trade and commercial cooperation.

Mr. Chrétien also underlined Canada's continuing support for ASEAN's demands that Vietnam withdraw its troops from Cambodia and pledged to maintain the present Canadian policy of accepting substantial numbers of refugees from Southeast Asia, as well as aiding refugees in Thailand and in the Thai border region. As a concrete example of the latter policy, the SSEA announced a contribution of \$2 million for relief in border areas and in refugee camps inside Thailand.

As tangible evidence of Canada's increasing interest in the Pacific area, the SSEA cited the creation of the Asia Pacific Foundation and the holding of Expo 86 in Vancouver, with an impressive ASEAN participation. The Foundation, he added, expected to become the focal point of a broad range of activities aimed at strengthening commercial, developmental, cultural and educational cooperation across the Pacific.

Foreign Minister Chrétien also endorsed ASEAN's proposal for the establishment of Pacific Economic Cooperation, a non-institutionalized scheme to increase awareness of fundamental

(Cont'd. on Page 2)



The Honourable Jean Chrétien, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, (left) is shown with his counterparts from other dialogue countries attending the Post-Ministerial Conference with ASEAN Foreign Ministers.

British Columbia Business Opportunities Seminars

The Government of British Columbia intends to hold a series of business opportunity seminars in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong during the first two weeks of October.

The purpose of the seminars is to establish stronger commercial links between the province and Asian markets.

These seminars will be designed to exchange information on a range of opportunities available through a commercial relationship with British Columbia including trade, joint ventures, licensing, direct investment, and entrepreneurial immigration.

Seminar sessions will consist of presentations from provincial representatives and private sector experts in the legal and financial fields. These presentations will be followed by a luncheon featuring a keynote speaker, probably a minister of the British Columbia government.

Private meetings with local companies and organisations will also be included in the programme.

Canadian Navy to Show Flag in ASEAN Region

Three destroyers from the Canadian Navy will be calling at ASEAN ports in September-October 1984. The ships will be undertaking a two month cruise in the Western Pacific as part of officer training exercises.

The three vessels, HMCS Saskatchewan, HMCS MacKenzie, and HMCS Qu'Appelle, will visit the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand. The ships will also be calling at Hong Kong and Japan.

While in port, the officers and men will play host to their ASEAN counterparts as well as to disadvantaged children and members of the Canadian community.

The Canadian navy has been a frequent visitor to the ASEAN region in recent years. In May 1983, four vessels from the Second Canadian Destroyer Squadron based at Esquimalt, British Columbia, called at the port of Manila, Philippines. In April 1981, three ships from the same squadron visited Singapore during their cruise in this region.