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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 23, 1969SIGNATURE OF CANADA-THAILAND MODUS VIVENDI

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today that a Commercial Modus Vivendi between Canada and the Kingdom of Thailand was signed in Bangkok April 22, 1969. The Honourable Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, signed on behalf of Canada and His Excellency Thanat Khoman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, signed for Thailand. The Modus Vivendi provides for an exchange of most-favoured-nation customs tariff treatment between the two countries.

Canada and Thailand over the past few years have enjoyed increasingly close and friendly relations. During the past decade, Thailand has enjoyed sustained economic progress, and last year, achieved a growth rate of 8%. The conclusion of this agreement is consistent with Canada's policy of developing relations with the nations of the Pacific, of expanding trade relations with developing countries and with commitments that Canada as a developed country has made in international organizations to assist developing countries in their efforts to accelerate economic growth. It is hoped that the Modus Vivendi will provide a basis for an expansion of mutually advantageous trade between Canada and the Kingdom of Thailand.

Thailand is not a member of GATT and until the signing of the Modus Vivendi was one of the few remaining countries whose goods were subject to the general tariff in Canada. Although the volume of Canadian trade with Thailand is relatively small, Thailand is a growing market for Canadian goods. Canadian exports to Thailand have increased from \$2.8 million in 1963 to \$7.1 million in 1968. In recent years Canadian exports to Thailand have included chiefly aircraft, non-ferrous metals and metal products. Canadian imports from Thailand have also grown from \$583 thousand in 1963 to \$2 million in 1968. Over 75% of Thailand's exports to Canada consist of tin products.