



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

# communiqué

No: 52  
No.:

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
RELEASE: JUNE 28, 1980

## SSEA'S STATEMENT ON CANADA/ASEAN CO-OPERATION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mark MacGuigan, said today, following the ASEAN meeting, that he had found his talks with the Foreign Ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) (composed of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) to have been most productive.

The SSEA noted that Canada has a close and growing relationship with ASEAN members. Canada is expected to provide more than \$200 million in the next years for development to ASEAN member countries. Two-way trade grew by more than 40 percent last year. Canada and members of ASEAN consult on a wide range of international economic and political issues. Canada views events in Indochina with growing concern. In this connection Canada had co-sponsored a resolution initiated by the ASEAN countries in United Nations General Assembly in November 1979 condemning the invasion of Kampuchea by Vietnam. During his talks in Kuala Lumpur, Mark MacGuigan confirmed his support for the ASEAN Foreign Ministers condemnation of Vietnam's recent attack across the Thai-Cambodian border. He also expressed his grave concern about this Vietnamese incursion into Thailand. Noting that Thailand had generously extended first asylum to hundreds of thousands of Indochinese refugees since 1975 and that the Vietnamese action caused needless suffering and deaths among Kampuchean refugees and Thai nationals along the border. He finally called on all countries to refrain from taking measures which would increase tension and instability in the area, and cause further suffering to the people of the Indochinese peninsula.

As an indication of Canada's commitment to ASEAN objectives of greater economic co-operation, the SSEA proposed to his ASEAN colleagues that Canada and ASEAN enter into exploratory negotiations to examine the possibility of concluding an industrial and technical co-operation agreement. The proposal was that the agreement would cover industrial co-operation and technical assistance programmes in addition to traditional forms of development assistance such as the support for the fisheries and forestry sectors which had been discussed during the meetings. Such an agreement would also facilitate co-operation between the ASEAN and Canadian private sectors.