

As a Pacific Nation, Canada places high priority on increasing economic activity with our partners in this dynamic region.

Since 1976, Canada's trade with ASEAN countries has tripled. And, in 1986, for the first time in recent memory, the books show that ASEAN achieved a positive balance of trade with Canada of some \$75 million (Cdn).

Two-way trade between Indonesia and Canada has also taken an upward turn, amounting to some \$355 million (Cdn) in 1986, so that Indonesia is now Canada's largest trading partner among the ASEAN countries. And I am glad to say that preliminary figures for 1987 indicate a substantial increase over 1986.

While these figures are encouraging, I see them as just a beginning, a base on which we can build a much more expansive and productive economic relationship.

The Government of Canada has committed several million dollars to help Canadian business develop new trade links with this region. Market studies have been completed in a number of sectors of mutual interest, including oil and gas, forestry and the aerospace industry. And we will continue to fund a wide range of sector-specific trade missions to Indonesia and the other ASEAN countries, as well as hosting senior industry representatives from this region on visits to Canada. We are also encouraging the establishment of joint ventures in Indonesia.

In this connection, I am pleased to note that the newly-established ASEAN-Canada Business Council recently held its first meeting in Manila which Indonesia co-chaired. The Council, which has our full support, will make an important contribution to strengthening our economic links, particularly in expanding private sector relationships between our countries.

Of course, our host organizations, the Indonesia-Canada Business Council, and the Canadian Business Association have played a major role in enhancing the Canada-Indonesia trading relationship and I am sure this will continue.

Canada, I can assure you, would like to see greater economic partnership with Indonesia in areas where Canadian companies have demonstrated leading-edge technology and expertise. To this end, we are undertaking a number of new initiatives that include:

- First, participation, along with Canadian industry, in several key trade shows, such as Indo Energy and