



No. 072

April 5, 1988.

## FIFTH ASEAN-CANADA JOINT COOPERATION COMMITTEE MEETING

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, is pleased to announce that the Fifth ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting will convene in Ottawa April 7 - 8, 1988. Senior officials from member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) will meet with their Canadian counterparts led by senior officials of the Department of External Affairs.

For the first time the private sector, represented by the ASEAN-Canada Business Council, will participate in the meeting. Mr. Clark has noted that the advice and guidance provided by the private sector is a pre-requisite to the continued expansion of Canada's relationship with the countries of ASEAN, particularly in trade and investment matters. Canada and ASEAN enjoy a reciprocal trading relationship which grew by 33.5% in 1987 to a total of Cdn \$1.8 billion, with a balance of Cdn \$16.6 million in favour of ASEAN.

Mr. Clark said, "The JCC meeting in Ottawa is a valuable preparation for my own meeting with ASEAN foreign ministers in Bangkok, Thailand in July. I consider ASEAN as an important and dynamic regional group with which Canada can work in common cause for economic and social progress as well as peace and security in Asia and the Pacific".

The JCC was established under the Canada-ASEAN Economic Cooperation Agreement signed in 1981. Its purpose is to review and promote industrial, commercial, and development cooperation on a regional basis. The meeting will also discuss recent developments and trends in the international economic environment and Canada's preparations as host of the Toronto Economic Summit in June, 1988. This meeting will provide ASEAN representatives with the opportunity to present Canada with their concerns and interests for consideration at the Summit.

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Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
Affaires extérieures