

Season's greetings from the Prime Minister



Mr. Trudeau's Christmas card this year shows the Prime Minister surrounded by his three sons, Michel, Justin and Sacha.

Canada chairs GATT meeting

Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen chaired the thirty-eighth session of the contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which met in Geneva, November 24-27. Minister of State (International Trade) Gerald A. Regan was the Canadian spokesman at the ministerial meeting.

Protectionism

Mr. MacEachen, in his opening remarks to the 88 trade ministers, warned of the detrimental effects of trade protection. "Protectionist policies, by obstructing international trade, are ultimately destructive of employment and, by undermining efficiency, they exacerbate inflation," he said.

Most trade ministers agree that the key to curbing the protectionist tide lies in whether they can agree on the critical issue of emergency protective measures for domestic industries, known as "safeguards".

Mr. Regan explained Canada's position: "Safeguard action has to occur in some circumstances to protect domestic employment against a great surge of imports from a particular country," he said. "When it occurs it should be temporary and done after consultation with exporting nations sending the harmful goods, and that action should be subject to an element of compensation."

Contribution to food fund

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan has announced that Canada will contribute \$6.5 million to the International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR) for the 1982-83 fiscal year.

The donation will be used to purchase and transport Canadian grains and other foods to help deal with emergency food situations in developing countries.

Since the IEFR was created in 1975 by the General Assembly of the United Nations, Canada has contributed \$19.5 million for the purchase and transport of Canadian-grown foods. Future commitments of \$6.5 million for 1983-84 and \$7 million for 1984-85 were announced at the joint World Food Program and IEFR Pledging Conference in New York in March.

PM to tour Asia

The Prime Minister will visit member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Japan from January 4 to 19, 1983. Countries included in the trip are Thailand (January 4-7); Singapore (January 7-9); Malaysia (January 9-11); Indonesia (January 11-13); and the Philippines (January 14-16). The Prime Minister will also visit Brunei (January 13-14), due to achieve full independence in 1984. In Japan (January 16-19) Prime Minister Trudeau will have discussions with the new Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

The visit to Southeast Asia and Japan, originally planned to take place last September, will provide an opportunity for consultations on international and regional issues as well as on Canadian political and economic relations with individual countries and with ASEAN as a regional organization. In each country the Prime Minister will also meet Canadian businessmen.

Canada's relations with ASEAN have increased broadly in recent years and, in addition to growing political consultations, include expanding commercial and

economic relations as well as a common interest in multilateral economic co-operation and shared Commonwealth membership in the case of Malaysia and Singapore.

ASEAN has become an important factor in the process for peace and stability in Southeast Asia and Canada has supported the efforts of its members in seeking a settlement of the problem of Cambodia. Canada continues to play a major role in international action to deal with the Indochina refugee problem.

Canada's commitment to the development of a mutually beneficial partnership with ASEAN was recently reaffirmed in the Canada-ASEAN economic co-operation agreement which came into force in June 1982.

Not only will the Prime Minister's visit to Japan enable him to meet the new Japanese Prime Minister, but he will also continue his consultations with an important Summit partner as well as review the extensive Canada-Japan relationship. With two-way trade at approximately \$8.5 billion, Japan is Canada's second largest trading partner, a valued market and a potential source of investment and technology.