

Response to Vietnamese attacks

The Department of External Affairs issued the following statement, April 7, regarding the escalation of the conflict along Cambodia's border with Thailand:

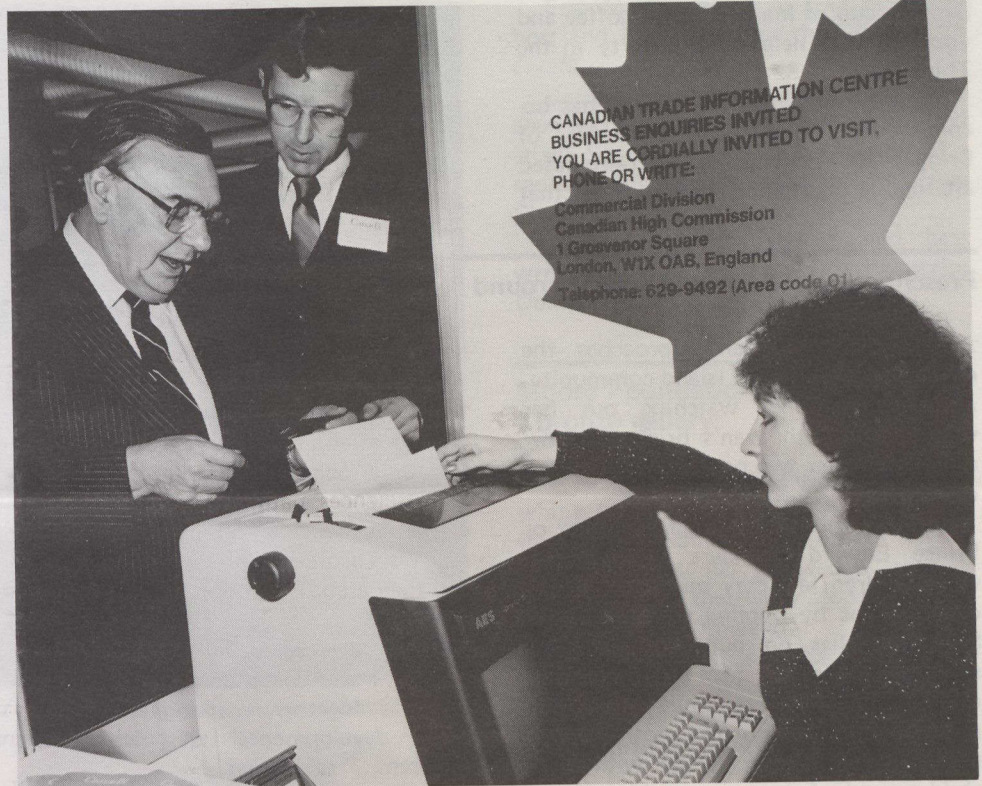
"The Vietnamese military offensive began on March 31 and has resulted so far in the destruction of several Khmer refugee camps along the Thai-Cambodian border, the deaths of several hundred Khmer civilians, the displacement of over 40 000 Khmer civilians into Thailand, armed Vietnamese incursions against Thailand and attacks on Thai civilians and property.

"Canada deplores the increased aggressive military action by Vietnamese forces in Cambodia and Thailand. This action has increased political tensions and threatens stability in Southeast Asia. Canada regrets that the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, by its actions on this occasion, has again spurned the efforts of the United Nations and the vast majority of the international community, including Canada, to find a peaceful solution to the problem of Cambodia in accordance with resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the 1981 International Conference on Kampuchea.

"Canada particularly regrets the invasion and attempted occupation of Thai territory by Vietnamese forces and attacks on innocent Thai civilians and property. Thailand and other member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have worked assiduously to contribute to peace and stability in Southeast Asia. The actions by the government of Vietnam against Thailand demonstrate disrespect for this peace process and a blatant disregard for the principles of international law and normally accepted international rules of conduct with respect to the territorial integrity of Thailand.

"Canada is also concerned by the deepening human tragedy which the Vietnamese offensive has inflicted on the Khmer people. The loss of civilian lives, the wounding of innocent people and the destruction of relief facilities provided through international relief organizations is deplored. The government of Vietnam must be held responsible for this wanton destruction of life and property. Canada calls on Vietnam to desist from further aggressive acts and to co-operate in the pursuit of peace and development in Southeast Asia."

Canadian food companies cater to good taste



Canada's High Commissioner to Britain Donald Jamieson (left) and Bill Roberts, show manager, European trade development office, Department of External Affairs, receive demonstration of information retrieval system used at the fair.

Twenty-four Canadian food and drink companies gave British and foreign visitors a taste of Canada at the International Food and Drink Exhibition held in London, England, February 28 to March 4.

At the same time, trade officials of the Department of External Affairs and commercial staff from the Canadian High Commission in London were serving up information electronically on other Canadian food companies which can export to the European Community.

The information retrieval system was tried experimentally at the French Food Fair SIAL (Salon International de l'Alimentation) held in Paris last November and was refined for use in the London food exhibition.

The information was provided by an AES Alphaplus 12 enhanced word processing unit comprising 67 files on the food industry. Each file was contained on a pocket-sized rectangular plastic record which can hold up to 35 standard-size pages of information.

At the London food exhibition, the unit was not using its telecommunications capability but at future trade fairs this capacity can be used to send Cana-

dian companies the names of prospects at the same time potential customers are receiving the names of Canadian companies. A new trade fair computer-based information system is being developed by the Department of External Affairs.

A special effort was made at the London exhibition to sell food products in the European Community. Another Canadian exhibitors group, sponsored by External Affairs trade development, will be at the German food trade fair, ANUGA, to be held in Cologne in November.

Part of the export thrust involves selling Canadian tastes to the Europeans. Canadian blueberries, for example, are almost unknown in many parts of Europe and the Wild Blueberry Association was offering the product with cream, in tarts and pies at the London food trade fair.

Maple syrup manufacturers were also promoting their product in candy and liquid form, while an Alberta brewery was attempting to sell its beers. Traditional British fish and chips sometimes feature fish caught in Canadian waters. Some 23 000 tonnes of frozen fish were sold last year by Canada to Britain.