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SSEA AT ASEAN PMC:

CANADA ACCORDS PRIORITY TO ENHANCED TIES ACROSS PACIFIC

RETOURNER À LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE DU MINISTÈRE

The Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, The Right Honourable Joe Clark, visited Malaysia in July to attend the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference (PMC). The Conference, convened in the new Shangri-La Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, provided the opportunity for Mr. Clark to meet and exchange views with his counterparts from ASEAN capitals and the other Dialogue Partners — the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the EEC.

In addition to the formal sessions with various groupings of ASEAN and Dialogue Partners, Mr. Clark held a series of productive bilateral talks with the other Ministers from both groups. During his various discussions, Mr. Clark emphasized Canada's role as a vigorous Pacific nation.

He spoke of the renewed commitment to the Asia region under the new government of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, saying that "this government attaches the highest priority to developing relations across the Pacific. Thirteen members of our new cabinet are from the Western Provinces of Canada and look naturally to the Pacific region as an area of importance and concentration."

He also outlined the Canadian position on various international economic issues. He stressed Canada's concern about the threat of protectionism in the international market place, and pointed out that, while not immune from domestic pressures, Canada was working hard in support of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. He pointed to Canada's trade relationship with ASEAN, amounting to almost \$1.5 billion — a record level. The two-way trade is almost in balance at present. "I believe that this demonstrates the sincerity of our commitment to achieving a healthy, fully balanced economic relationship with your countries," he stated in a meeting between the Canadian and ASEAN delegations.

He underlined Canada's commitment to combatting international narcotics trafficking — an issue of considerable priority at this year's PMC. The Minister outlined the role of the recently established Asia Pacific Foundation in providing a catalyst for further development of Canada-Asia linkages and strengthening



The Right Hon. Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, addressing the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference in Kuala Lumpur.

commercial, developmental, cultural and educational cooperation with the Asian countries.

Mr. Clark held a valuable one-hour meeting with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir, and also paid a call on Finance Minister Daim Zainuddin. Private discussions with American Secretary of State, Mr. Shultz; Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr. Abe; and Australian Foreign Minister, Mr. Hayden, were also especially fruitful.

In an area of particular concern to Canadians, Canada will contribute almost \$3 million this year to Refugee Relief programmes in Thailand. The government will also increase its humanitarian assistance to non-Communist elements of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea. These announcements were made by Mr. Clark, during his speech on July 11, 1985 at the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference. In addressing the Conference, Mr. Clark stated that the fact that Kampuchean resistance forces had not been broken "underscores the continued resilience and determination of the widespread opposition to Vietnam's policy". He emphasized Canada's support

Canadian Trade Team To Consult With ASEAN Counterparts

As part of the preparations for the next round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN), the Secretary of State for External Affairs announced the visit by a delegation of Canadian trade experts to certain Pacific countries. The objective is to consult with leading representatives of various countries on the major issues that will arise in a future round of negotiations in the GATT. It is the Canadian intention to consult closely with ASEAN counterparts to exchange views in the period prior to the opening of MTN negotiations.

The Canadian team will visit the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, as well as Japan and Korea in middle to late October. The delegation will be headed by Mr John Weekes, Director General of the Economic Policy Bureau, Department of External Affairs, and will include representatives from other ministries.

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