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Framework for Co-operation

5.1 Agreements and Arrangements between Canada and Singapore

A total of five agreements and arrangements are currently in force between Canada and Singapore, mainly in support of the commercial relationship.

A series of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) have been signed since 1979 regarding the export of certain textile products from Singapore for import to Canada. The successive arrangements, valid for periods of approximately three years, have provided for the implementation of an Export Authorization System by the Government of Singapore and quantitative restrictions on textile products originating and exported from Singapore. Singapore's rising exports of cotton terry towels to Canada were a subject of discussions between the two countries under an MOU early in 1990.

Canada and Singapore signed an agreement in the form of an Exchange of Notes for the promotion and protection of investments between the two countries. The Agreement is designed to lessen the risk for the Government of Canada through its insuring agency, the Export Development Corporation, of providing insurance covering loss of overseas investment by reason of inconvertibility, expropriation, nationalization or, war, revolution and insurrection.

The Convention between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Republic of Singapore for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income was signed in March 1976 and came into force in September 1977. The Convention is designed to eliminate double taxation of individuals and companies of one state who do business or earn income in the other. This Convention is designed to encourage trade and investment between the two countries and enhance the nature and scope of bilateral economic relations.

In 1969 Canada and Singapore signed an Agreement for the Training in Canada of Personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Singapore. To date, a total of 14 members of the armed forces of Singapore have benefited from training programs in Canada under this Agreement, but all have done so prior to 1975.

The Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Republic of Singapore on Air Transport originally signed in June 1984 was later amended and came into force with the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding in February 1988. As a result, Air Canada has continued its successful Toronto-Singapore service and Singapore Airlines now flies directly to Vancouver.

In a regional context, Canada and Singapore are signatories to the Agreement between Canada and ASEAN on Economic Co-operation which came into effect in June 1982. Under the Agreement, a Joint Co-operation Committee was established to review progress in a range of commercial and development co-operation endeavours between Canada and the ASEAN group.

5.2 Other Areas of Co-operation

Outside the trade sphere, linkages and contacts between organizations and institutions in both countries are only slowly emerging.

Canada attaches considerable importance to educational co-operation as a means of establishing long-term relations between Canada and Singapore. The presence in key positions of a large number of senior Singapore officials who have studied in Canada (under the now discontinued Colombo Scholarship program) has helped to develop amicable relations which emphasize the need for continuing efforts in this sector. At present, there are an estimated 1 400 Singaporean students in various educational institutions across Canada. As part of these