

enriched the diverse Canadian mosaic. And it has brought a greater sense of awareness of our Pacific and Asian dimension to the Canadian public at large. I believe this human factor will contribute significantly to broadening the focus of Canadians on the cultural and human bonds with Southeast Asia. And it will cement a firm foundation of Canadian ties with Southeast Asia.

I have dwelt at some length on our economic and trade relations with ASEAN and on the human dimension of our links with the Southeast Asian region. As important as these areas are and as impressive as progress has been in expanding relations in them, we must not lose sight of the central fact that it all rests on a foundation of political stability and a strong political commitment.

**Commitment
to peace and
stability**

The rapid growth in the last decade in relations between Canada and Southeast Asia has been made possible by a stable and healthy political relationship. The factor that has most encouraged the relationship in the development of ASEAN itself is the strong commitment of its member countries to peace and stability. The development of ASEAN is a striking example of a concerted political effort to resolve differences and co-operate in the pursuit of peace and stability. It was not too long ago that relationships between the countries which now form the Association were characterized by conflict of varying degrees of severity.

Internal changes and developments within the ASEAN countries themselves, and the threat posed by an expansionist Vietnam, were major political factors which encouraged greater co-operation among the countries of that organization.

We have been greatly impressed by ASEAN's growth and sense of common destiny, and by the economic and social progress achieved in the region. In the efforts to promote and encourage peace and stability in Southeast Asia the interests of Canada and ASEAN converge. One of the world's tragedies continues to be played out in Indochina and Canada continues to be deeply involved and committed to seeking a resolution of underlying problems. The Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia poses, in our view, a major threat to peace and stability in Asia. Canada will do everything it can to help ASEAN in the search for a peaceful settlement in Cambodia which will remove foreign occupation from that country, provide for the Khmer people to choose their own government free from external pressures, and halt the flow of refugees.

The minister has assured the ASEAN foreign ministers that as long as Vietnam refuses to end its occupation of Cambodia, Canada will not help to subsidize its military activities by extending development aid to Vietnam. At the same time, we shall continue to share in the refugee burden that has fallen on the shoulders of the countries of ASEAN.

As I stated at the outset of this address, Canada's relations with Southeast Asia have
