

For these reasons ASEAN has become important to Canada and has become a permanent feature of Canadian thinking on Asia and the Pacific. We do not make any important decisions about this region without taking full account of the views and interests of ASEAN. The problem of Cambodia and the related question of aid to Vietnam are cases in point. Thus, I can assure you that Canada will continue to support ASEAN in opposing Vietnamese challenges to the credentials of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea in the United Nations. At the same time Canada will not support in either its bilateral programmes or through multilateral institutions the provision of economic assistance to Vietnam which would have the effect of subsidizing or rewarding Hanoi's continued military occupation of Cambodia.

The visit of Prime Minister Trudeau in January was designed to emphasize the importance of ASEAN to Canada and to underline for the Canadian public and the international community as a whole the enhanced political and economic stature of ASEAN. In this context Prime Minister Trudeau sought to reinforce Canada's role as a reliable friend of ASEAN, and as helping to bring about a better accommodation of the needs and wishes of the Third World.

A major objective of the Prime Minister's visit was the expansion of trade and economic relations with ASEAN. Thus, in each country the Prime Minister met with senior Canadian businessmen who were also able to meet political leaders and government officials in each ASEAN capital. We attach importance to this as it accomplishes the purpose of making Canadian capabilities better known in the region.

To further advance this objective the Minister of State for International Trade, Gerald Regan, led a trade mission to ASEAN in early May. This visit provided confirmation of the seriousness of Canada's intent to promote stronger ties with the ASEAN region. Mr. Regan's visit also stressed the importance of trade as a two-way street, both in export and investment. He had meetings with a variety of ministers, senior officials and heads of statutory bodies in each of the ASEAN countries. Like the visit of the Prime Minister before him, Mr. Regan's visit succeeded in providing access for Canadian businessmen to the highest levels of decision-making in the ASEAN countries and for this we are grateful. Your countries have been successful in blending