

needs of their people. Thereby Canada would contribute to economic growth and social well-being, the foundations of political stability.

Since the inception of ASEAN nearly sixteen years ago we have been impressed by its growth not only as a force for economic and social progress but as a significant factor for peace and stability. This has become especially evident in the years since the communist victories in Indochina and more particularly since the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia. The development of a common resolve with ASEAN to meet these challenges has won the Association widespread international respect and support.

Convinced, therefore, of ASEAN's own contribution to regional peace and development Canada is committed to increased economic cooperation with the Association. This commitment finds expression in the Economic Cooperation Agreement signed by Canada and the member countries of ASEAN on September 25, 1981 which came into force on June 1 last year. You are meeting here today and tomorrow in the ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Committee to "promote and review the various cooperation activities envisaged . . . under this Agreement". I wish you well in your deliberations and assure you of the full collaboration of the Canadian officials with whom you will be working.