



Statements and Speeches

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CANADA AND INDONESIA -- THE DIALOGUE HAS BEGUN WELL

A Speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, to the Press Club, Jakarta, August 25, 1976.

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On behalf of the Canadian Government, I should like to thank the authorities of Indonesia, particularly Foreign Minister Malik, for the kind invitation which has brought me to Jakarta. I recall with pleasure my meeting with Foreign Minister Malik in July 1975, when he and two of his Cabinet colleagues accompanied President Soeharto for a visit to Canada. Indonesian hospitality is justly famed, and my hosts have left me in no doubt that the reputation is well deserved. I am unable to stay in your country as long as I should wish, but the warm and generous reception which Mr. Malik and his colleagues have extended to me and to the members of my delegation are making this a memorable visit. It is indeed an auspicious beginning to my tour of Pacific nations, which will also take me to Malaysia, New Zealand and Australia.

The progress that is being made in Indonesia and in the four other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations has provided an important impetus for my present visit to this region in my capacity as Secretary of State for External Affairs. It emphasizes the growing interest in Canada in developing closer relations with the countries of ASEAN, of which Indonesia is by far the largest and the most populous. Accordingly, Foreign Minister Malik, his colleagues and I have discussed ideas and approaches to issues with a view to adding to the momentum of our bilateral relations, which have developed significantly over the past few years.

I should perhaps begin by explaining that in 1970, after an exhaustive study and analysis by my Department, the Canadian Government took a formal decision to work actively in order to diversify Canada's relations with other countries.

As a Pacific nation, it was logical for Canadians to look beyond our Western shores to the countries which, along with Canada, were situated on the rim of the world's largest ocean. Canadians were, of course, very much aware already that the Pacific was an area where the drama, and all too often the tragedy, of human affairs was being played out, and where the tensions and disagreements which
