

Question:

Regarding Kampuchea, has Canada made commitments not to give aid to Vietnam as long as they are in Kampuchea?

Mr. Chrétien:

The answer is yes. We are not to give aid to Vietnam until we are satisfied with the situation in Kampuchea. This was a commitment made a year ago at the last ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting.

Question:

There is some concern by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees that a lot of countries have decreased their intake and prefer to give money. Is it also the same for Canada?

Mr. Chrétien:

You know Canada has resettled 85,000 refugees from this general area over the last few years so for a country like Canada that is a big number. We are still taking some, I think that about 7,000 are expected to come this year. So we have acted very responsibly and we have committed another \$2 million for helping on the border for the refugees. And we have made as I said yesterday a contribution, at the request of Thailand Government, to the non-communist side of the coalition government in non-military uses.

Question:

How would you sum up the performance of Canadian exporters in Southeast Asia?

Mr. Chrétien:

I think that we have been more aggressive in Southeast Asia than the ASEAN businessmen have been in penetrating the Canadian market. But what I observe is that the ASEAN nations are an area of growth, you know they have stability and they have known growth over the past few years despite the recession that has affected the world economy. So I think that more collaboration between Canada and these nations will benefit both sides. You know, former International Trade Minister G. Regan came to ASEAN with several businessmen not long ago and there is more interest by the Canadian business community to invest or sell goods and services to this area. Many areas of expertise that we have in Canada can be used here. This morning the ASEAN ministers themselves mentioned fisheries, forestry, communication, and transportation.

Question:

Doesn't it harm your election prospects by being here while the campaign is underway in Canada.

Mr. Chrétien:

I thought it was the right thing to do. I did recommend to the Prime Minister that I should come here anyway and I have to tell you that the Japanese government was very appreciative that we have done it and the ministers have



The Honourable Jean Chrétien.

referred to that fact many times while I've been here. They consider it an important move on my part to show my interest in this part of the world. For me as a Canadian who always thought a lot about the Pacific even if I come from eastern Canada, I took it as a great political opportunity to start here. Most of my predecessors must have made their first trip either south or east to Europe. For me, the first stop was Japan, the second stop was the ASEAN meeting, you know this gave me a lot of satisfaction.

Question:

What is the Canadian Government doing to promote ASEAN?

Mr. Chrétien:

We have a new Asia Pacific Foundation in Western Canada for which we just passed a bill. You know we want to make our businessmen and our public sector in Canada much more aware of the reality of the Pacific. We have been an Atlantic-oriented country for the last hundred years because of our links with Great Britain and France. Plus the fact that we are close to the United States of America. Now we are looking to the Pacific and we feel that we are very gratified to be a Pacific Nation. There are a lot of travellers coming and Federal and Provincial ministers leading trade missions in this area. Our Canadian International Development Agency programmes provide for money to help businessmen on both sides to have conferences and exchange of information and discussion on potentialities.

The Minister's statements were given at a press conference 13 July at the conclusion of the ASEAN Foreign Minister's Post-Ministerial meetings with Dialogue Partners in Jakarta 1984.