

1975 Canada has contributed close to \$25 million to international organizations for humanitarian relief for Cambodians and Thais victimized by the Pol Pot Khmer Rouge government in Cambodia and by the subsequent Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia.

Total Canadian exports to Thailand in 1981 were \$116 million which declined from the 1980 total of \$142 million. Imports from Thailand in 1981 were \$33 million which surpassed the 1980 total of \$25 million. Trade between Canada and Thailand is carried out under a commercial modus vivendi providing reciprocal Most-Favoured-Nation treatment. Thailand is a beneficiary of Canada's General Preferential Tariff in favour of developing nations.

Thailand has considerable market potential for Canadian products and the Thais have a prime interest in Canadian heavy equipment and consulting services. The main areas of interest are electrical power/transmission equipment, communications, mining and metallurgy, construction equipment and pulp and paper. Canada imports manufactured goods, textiles and furniture from Thailand. Direct Canadian investment in Thailand is limited to an aluminium extrusion plant, two daily newspapers, a BATA shoe factory and one-third equity in Thai Pulps. Canadian firms have also been involved in natural gas drilling in the Gulf of Thailand. The Bank of Nova Scotia is providing part of the financing for this operation.

Thailand has actively sought increased Canadian involvement in the modern sectors of its economy, particularly in the areas where particular Canadian capabilities and experience have relevance to Thai requirements. These include the development of the minerals sector, oil and gas exploration and development, and the related downstream industries and the electrical sector. Canadian experience in other areas is also applicable in Thailand and future markets should exist for advanced Canadian products and services in the transportation, particularly aerospace, telecommunications, and power sectors. As one of the world's most rapidly-growing economies, with real prospects of achieving NIC (newly industrialized country) status before the turn of the century, Thailand offers a market for Canadian exporters with outstanding potential.