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Dr. MacGuigan Attends ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Dialogue Partners



The Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs and several of his ASEAN counterparts relax during ASEAN/dialogue partner meetings held in Manila June 19-20. Pictured from left are Singapore's Foreign Minister S. Dhanabalan, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, Thai Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila, and Malaysian Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen.

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CANADA'S Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan attended the ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting with dialogue partners held in Manila on June 19 and 20.

As expected, Kampuchea remained the most important subject of discussion among the assembled foreign ministers. Dr. MacGuigan was able to reiterate Canada's continuing support for ASEAN initiatives in the search for peace and stability in Indochina. He also confirmed his intention of participating at the international conference on Kampuchea in New York the week of July 13.

At his private meeting with the ASEAN foreign ministers Dr. MacGuigan also spoke at length of the growing bilateral relationship between Canada and the Association, and the importance of further co-operation, primarily under the auspices of the proposed Canada-ASEAN Industrial, Technical and Commercial Co-operation Agreement but also through dialogue meetings of senior government officials. He further discussed with his

colleagues the importance of involving the Canadian and ASEAN private sectors through the possible establishment of formal linkages between the business communities, through industrial co-operation to promote greater transfer of technology and through expanding trade across the Pacific.

The Secretary of State also took the opportunity to emphasize Canada's Pacific dimension and its interest in the current thinking regarding suggestions for a formalized Pacific community.

During the two days in Manila, Dr MacGuigan was also able to meet individually with the foreign ministers of all the ASEAN countries, as well as with Australian Foreign Minister Street, New Zealand Foreign Minister Talboys, Japan's Foreign Minister Sonoda, and U.S. Secretary of State Haig.

The Canadian Ambassadors and High Commissioners to the ASEAN countries also met concurrently in Manila and participated at many of the bilateral and multilateral meetings.