

I am very pleased to be in the kingdom of Thailand and to have this opportunity to speak to you today. First I want to review with you international conditions which are shaping both ASEAN and Canadian foreign and trade policies. In specific terms, I also want to comment on the vibrancy and future of our bilateral relationship.

Canada is a country of three oceans - the Arctic, the Pacific and the Atlantic. Most of our history came across the Atlantic. It is increasingly clear that much of our future lies across the Pacific. Last year, our trade across the Pacific was greater than our trade across the Atlantic. For a decade our immigration has been larger from Asia than from Europe. The new Government is acutely conscious of our Pacific role.

We have, moreover, for several years attempted to help Thailand shoulder some of the enormous burden it bears as a result of Vietnamese aggression in Cambodia. We have provided humanitarian assistance to thousands of displaced persons from Cambodia through the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the United Nations Border Relief Operation. Further aid has been given to affected Thai villagers forced to flee their homes because of fighting along the border.

Canada has also long been a major resettlement country of those unfortunate victims of the tragedy in Indochina. Since 1975, we have accepted approximately 100,000 refugees from Indochina, with more than 31,000 of these coming from camps in Thailand, and we will continue to do our fair share.

Industrial and developing countries alike must contend with problems of persistent unemployment, volatile exchange rates, uncertainty over future interest rates and the threat of protectionism. Against this background, the prospects for growth in industrial countries will influence development and indebtedness in developing countries.

To illustrate this point, economic growth in industrial countries like Canada, and in developing countries like the ASEAN nations, is directly linked to growth prospects for the US economy, specifically, the slowing of growth in the US to 3.2 percent in 1985.

The large trade deficit in the US and high unemployment in key industrial sectors continue to fuel protectionist pressures. These pressures are also clearly