



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

N°: 91
No.:

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: JUNE 4, 1982

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
TO ATTEND ASEAN MEETING,
SINGAPORE, JUNE 17-18, 1982

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announced today that he will attend the annual Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Dialogue Partners in Singapore on June 17 and 18.

Dr. MacGuigan was invited to attend the meeting by Singapore's Foreign Minister, Suppiah Dhanabalan, on behalf of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers.

ASEAN is comprised of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The meeting with Dialogue Partners (Canada, Japan, United States, European Economic Community, Australia and New Zealand) consists of a series of individual and collective meetings between the Foreign Ministers of the countries with which ASEAN has established a formal relationship or "dialogue".

Although Canada's relations with ASEAN date from 1975, they have expanded very substantially in the past few years. The ASEAN countries have achieved a remarkable degree of economic growth while constituting an element of stability which has contributed greatly to the security of Southeast Asia. In particular, ASEAN has played a key role in dealing with the serious security and humanitarian problems occasioned by the Vietnamese invasion and occupation of Cambodia in 1979. Canada has cooperated with ASEAN in a number of areas, including the search for an international solution to the Cambodia problem. Canada has accepted over 70,000 Indochinese refugees to date.