

One of Canada's main advantages is its experience in Indochina. In a 1982 speech prepared for the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mark MacGuigan and delivered, in his absence, by Tom Delworth, it was recalled that:

While the Canadian participation in the International Control Commissions did not bring peace to Indochina, we persisted for almost 20 years in these efforts because we believed that we had a contribution to make in upholding a painfully achieved peace and in advancing the cause of stability in the political turmoil of the region at the time. One long-range result of this Canadian presence in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos was the sense of involvement of a whole generation of foreign service officers to Southeast Asia. At one point, as many as 30 per cent of the whole External Affairs officers corps had served in Indochina. The experience acquired in Southeast Asia by External Affairs subsequently very much kindled Canadian interest in that part of the world.<sup>144</sup>

The generosity with which Canada welcomed the "boat people," the money devoted to that cause, the display of public support for the refugees and the arrival of over a hundred thousand Indochinese in Canada, have undoubtedly contributed to giving the Canadian government a high degree of credibility as far as Indochina is concerned. Nor must one forget the bilateral programme for family reunification which has enabled twenty-five thousand Vietnamese to come to Canada since 1979. If one takes into account these two Canadian experiences of Indochina, as well as Canada's traditional belief in negotiation, mediation and peacekeeping and its constant efforts to bring about peaceful settlements both bilaterally and multilaterally, it seems clear that Ottawa is endowed with a tradition and an expertise which it is no longer making available to the belligerents in Indochina.

To the extent that Canada has now begun to take an obvious interest in Asia and the Pacific and often accords priority to that part of the world in its foreign policy statements, it would seem desirable that Canada's interest in the area not be expressed purely in economic terms but also by

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<sup>144</sup> Mark MacGuigan, "Growing Canada-ASEAN Relations," *Statements and Speeches*, no. 82/19, pages 1-2.