

Minister of Defence leads tour to Asia

Leading a parliamentary delegation on a visit to Asia, including the People's Republic of China, the Minister of National Defence, J. Gilles Lamontagne, also visited Bangkok and Singapore.

Meetings with political leaders in both capitals provided a valuable opportunity to reaffirm Canada's interest in the security of the region as well as to discuss defence-related matters of mutual interest.

Mr. Lamontagne's visit to Bangkok March 27-29, was highlighted by a courtesy call on Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda and a visit to the Supreme Command Joint Operations Centre where he met Supreme Commander General Saiyud Kerdphol. At the Joint Operations Centre the Canadian delegation was given a briefing on the current military situation on the Thai-Cambodian border. Other areas of discussion included the possibility of visits by officer cadets from their respective military colleges, future port calls by the Royal Canadian Navy and general trade relations between Canada and Thailand.

During his stopover in Singapore from April 2 to April 4, Mr. Lamontagne called on the Minister of State for Defence, Dr. Yeo Ning Hong, and reiterated Canadian support for ASEAN and its efforts to promote a peaceful solution to the problems of Cambodia. He took the opportunity to explore the possibility of Canadian defence sales to Singapore,



Singapore: Canada's Minister of National Defence, Gilles Lamontagne, (left), is introduced to Second Deputy Prime Minister (Foreign Affairs), S. Rajaratnam. Mr. Lamontagne also had a meeting with the Minister of State for Defence, Dr. Yeo Ning Hong, which included discussions on the sale of Canadian defence products to the Singapore Armed Forces.

particularly in areas of high technology such as flight simulators produced by CAE Electronics.

Mr. Lamontagne received a briefing on the Singapore Armed Forces. He also discussed with Dr. Yeo the possibility of individual officer training in Canada.

The Minister paid a courtesy call on the Second Deputy Prime Minister

(Foreign Affairs), S. Rajaratnam, to discuss matters of mutual interest on the international stage, including East-West relations, security in Southeast Asia and the recent non-aligned summit.

Canadian minister to attend small business congress

The Minister of State for Small Business and Tourism, William Rompkey, will be representing the Canadian government at the Tenth International Small Business Congress to be held in Singapore in September.

The three-day conference will be opened on September 12 by Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry, Dr. Tony Tan. Ministers from Malaysia, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea, are expected to attend, along with senior officials from other countries, including the United States and Japan.

Speakers from 18 countries are expected to take part in the annual conference, which this year has as its theme "development and modernization of small business." Sessions will be held on such subjects as: prospects and opportunities in the ASEAN countries, entrepreneurship development, government and small business development, and modern technology and management.

Among the speakers will be J. Lavigne, head of the Federal Business Development Bank of Canada.

During the conference, Mr. Rompkey will host a reception for delegates.

Trade briefs

Computa '83: two Canadian companies took part in the computer technology trade show held at the World Trade Centre in Singapore in May. One of these was AES Data Systems Ltd., Montreal, which is the world's largest manufacturer of word-processors. AES has a strong business relationship with a local company, Equatron Pte. Ltd. and organized a seminar on word-processing in conjunction with the show. The second Canadian participant was Develcon Electronics of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, which produces data processing equipment.

Teaching aids: a recent trade show dealing with educational equipment attracted interest from Canadian companies. Didacta '83, held at the World Trade Centre in Singapore in June, had two Canadian participants: Lab-Volt Ltd. from Montreal, which produces audio-visual teaching aids, and Dominie Press of Toronto, which sells educational material.

Library systems: at the Sixth Congress of Southeast Asia Librarians, Consal VI, a senior representative of the National Library of Canada delivered a paper on the impact of information technology on the bibliographic record. Mary Joan Dunn, who is the assistant director of the library's systems centre, shared some of the experiences which the National Library has gained in testing and applying new computer technologies to library management. Ms. Dunn's presentation was very well received since the National Library of Canada has a wide reputation for keeping abreast of new developments.

B.C. Wood Products Show: a display by eight manufacturing companies from the province of British Columbia was held at the High Commission in Singapore on June 21. The companies offered specially finished wood panelling and other products used by builders and furniture manufacturers. The mission was organized by the Government of the Province of British Columbia and made stops as well in Malaysia.