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SSEA TO TRAVEL TO
VENICE, ANKARA, KUALA LUMPUR,
SINGAPORE AND HONG KONG

Following his attendance at the Venice Summit, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (SSEA), Mark MacGuigan, will travel to Ankara, Turkey where he will head the Canadian Delegation to the regular Spring Ministerial Session of the North Atlantic Council (NATO) from June 25 to 26. Attention at the meeting is expected to focus on the future of East-West relations in the aftermath of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The SSEA will then proceed to Kuala Lumpur where he has been invited by the Foreign Ministers of the member states of ASEAN¹ to participate in discussions on June 28 following their annual meeting to be held June 25 and 26. This will be the first time that Canada has participated as a dialogue partner in meetings with ASEAN. The Foreign Ministers of the United States of America, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and India and a representative of the European Economic Community will also be present.

The meetings between Mark MacGuigan and his ASEAN counterparts will serve to strengthen the growing relations between Canada and the members of ASEAN. That organization has become a positive force for stability in South East Asia and its members have experienced strong economic growth over the past decade. Events in Indochina, particularly the Indochinese refugee crisis, will be reviewed, as well as the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Canada and ASEAN will also discuss agreement on development co-operation projects.

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¹ Association of South East Asia. The member countries are: Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines.

Following his stay in Kuala Lumpur, the SSEA will pay an official visit to Singapore, from June 29 to July 1, where he will hold discussions with the Singapore Government and attend Canada Day celebrations.

For many years, Singapore and Canada have enjoyed close ties founded upon a shared membership in the Commonwealth and many similar perceptions of international issues. Dr. MacGuigan's visit will reinforce this relationship and highlight the fact that Singapore is Canada's most important trading partner in South East Asia.

Dr. MacGuigan will then visit Hong Kong from July 1 - 3. During his stay, he will meet with Hong Kong officials including the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Murray MacLehose. He will also make a major address to the local and Canadian business community on Canada's growing links with the Pacific region.