

# STATEMENT DISCOURS

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NOTES FOR A STATEMENT BY  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE RIGHT  
HONOURABLE JOE CLARK, TO THE  
ASEAN POST-MINISTERIAL  
CONFERENCE SIX PLUS ONE  
MEETING.

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

JULY 13, 1985

Foreign Minister Castro, I must begin by thanking you and through you, the Government and Foreign Ministry of the Philippines, for the outstanding cooperation and support that Canada has received during the eight years you have acted as our Dialogue Partner. This period has seen the consolidation and impressive expansion of Canada's ties with ASEAN. The Canadian Embassy in Manila has received constant support from your Ministry. This has been crucial to our success.

I would also take this opportunity to thank our Malaysian hosts for their excellent arrangements. It was in Kuala Lumpur in 1980 that Canada first participated in an ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference. I am delighted that we have now come the full circle.

Mr. Chairman, since the last ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference in Jakarta, a new Government has come to office in Canada. This Government attaches the highest priority to developing relations across the Pacific. Thirteen members of our new cabinet are from the western provinces of Canada and look naturally to the Pacific region as areas of importance and concentration. The political stability and economic dynamism of Southeast Asia provide a point of optimism in a difficult international scene. As a Western Canadian, I am acutely conscious of the need to ensure that Canadian foreign policy takes full account of the impact that the countries of the Pacific Rim will have on Canada's future. This meeting has further convinced me that the highest priority must continue to be given to seeking new ways of working together productively.

As you may be aware, the Canadian Government is currently conducting a foreign policy review. A Green Paper designed primarily to provoke discussion and comment has been issued which stresses the themes of competitiveness and security - themes which are relevant to our discussions here.

In preparing for this Conference, I have been greatly encouraged -- not only in terms of the current Canadian relationship with ASEAN but also with the underlying trends which it reveals. Overall bilateral trade in 1984 reached almost 1 1/2 billion dollars (Canadian) -- a record level. Furthermore, ASEAN exports to Canada have increased even more rapidly than Canadian exports to ASEAN with the result that the two-way flow is now almost in balance. I believe that this demonstrates the sincerity of our commitment to achieving a healthy, fully balanced economic relationship with your countries.

In fact, over the past year the Canadian Government has worked actively to assist the ASEAN countries in penetrating the Canadian market. In this regard, I would draw particular attention to the seminars held by the Canadian Trade Facilitation Office, financed by CIDA, in ASEAN. Canada has also worked to stimulate interest in investment and investment-related missions have come from ASEAN to Canada in the past year. In fact it will be my pleasure to participate in the opening of two joint venture operations during my forthcoming visits to Thailand and Indonesia.

Mr. Chairman, knowledge and communication are two essential dimensions of increased trade. I had the pleasure of participating in a Pacific Rim Opportunities Conference in Toronto this March. The ASEAN countries were extremely active participants. However, a focus on trade and commercial matters alone will not be sufficient in itself to create the sort of comprehensive relationship that we desire.

You have made reference to the establishment in 1984 of the Asia Pacific Foundation, with a most rare all party support in the Canadian Parliament. This was motivated specifically by a desire to provide both a focus and a catalyst for the further development of the relationship. With its headquarters in Vancouver, its objective is to coordinate and stimulate a broad range of activities, towards strengthening commercial, developmental, cultural and educational cooperation with the countries of Asia. I think I can personally claim a degree of paternity for the Foundation -- it was during my time as Prime Minister in 1979 that the initial moves towards its establishment were taken -- and I take considerable satisfaction from the fact that it has now become a reality.

I believe it is highly significant that the first major undertaking cosponsored by the Foundation took place in an ASEAN country - a conference in Indonesia co-sponsored by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies. It is a measure of the success of the Canada-Indonesia Conference that the Foundation is now actively considering the possibilities for similar conferences with other ASEAN countries.

An important focus of the Asia Pacific Foundation will be the expansion of human contacts between Canada and the ASEAN countries. I think enhanced understanding and sensitivity to each other's interests and objectives is crucial to a healthy relationship. As you know, there are

already about 7,000 students from ASEAN countries in Canada. I hope that new ways will be found of increasing their numbers.

Returning for a moment to an important and related element of Canada's association with ASEAN, we are delighted that there will be such extensive participation by ASEAN countries at Expo 86, to be held in Vancouver next year. This is an illustration of the real partnership which characterizes our relations.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, Canada remains committed to support the ASEAN position on Cambodia and I look forward to sharing views on this issue later. ASEAN has also raised a matter which, as I said at the Six Plus Six meeting, is of great concern to Canada. That is the need to cooperate to an even greater extent in combatting international narcotics trafficking. Both within the ASEAN context, and in our bilateral relations with ASEAN countries, we will seek new ways of working together through police cooperation and other forms of assistance to battle this terrible social evil. Canada supports the ASEAN initiative to formulate a draft resolution concerning narcotic drugs and looks forward to discussing its language and provisions.

Another international evil of immense proportions is that of terrorism. We recently experienced the shocking loss of Canadian and other lives which occurred with the crash of Air India Flight 182 - possibly as a result of sabotage. Canada is actively involved with a number of important initiatives aimed at enhancing international cooperation against terrorism. I know that the ASEAN countries share a similar concern and I believe that we can work together even more effectively than in the past in this vital area.

Mr. Chairman, Canada has continually been impressed by the manner in which the ASEAN countries have provided a place of first refuge to those hundreds of thousands who have fled the totalitarian régimes in Indochina. Over the past decade, Canada has been one of the major countries of resettlement. To the extent that the crisis continues, Canada will do its fair share and do that in full consultation with the ASEAN countries.

Given the importance of trade to ASEAN and to Canada, we have a common interest in resisting protectionism, in further liberalization and an immediate interest in working together to make the trading system operate more effectively. We must not allow protectionism

in either developed or developing countries to blight the opportunities for enhanced trade and mutual prosperity. In this connection, I think that the ASEAN countries and Canada have much in common. I hope we can collaborate in developing a consensus on a balanced agenda for the expected new round of multilateral trade negotiations. As indicated the other day, I expect to have senior officials of my Government out to consult with yours to determine how best to achieve that objective.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out Canada's appreciation for the effective and constructive nature of the views which ASEAN presented to Summit countries prior to our meeting in Bonn. I would not pretend that we were able to accommodate all your concerns but your input informed our discussions in a most helpful manner both at the Bonn Summit, and in other international fora. Canada has made it a particular priority to ensure that the concerns of developing countries are fully recognized. In this connection, I was very pleased to have discussions with the ASEAN Heads of Mission in Ottawa just before the Bonn Summit this spring, and I can assure you that the ASEAN views, as expressed in their representations to me, were very much taken into account in our participation in these meetings.

Sir, an important question on the international agenda is the strengthening of the United Nations and its agencies. Canada considers that this question requires urgent attention from all Member States. None of us would argue that the United Nations functions as well as its founders intended. We are nevertheless united in an appreciation of the vital importance of multilateral efforts to resolve the varied and ever more complex challenges confronting today's world. Forty years after its establishment, the UN remains the focal point for blending together the interests of the international community. However, without any question at all, the UN system needs to be strengthened. This could be facilitated by ensuring that contentious political questions are dealt with in the political organs and not in the specialized agencies. There is also an urgent requirement to improve the management of United Nations institutions, particularly the specialized agencies such as UNESCO and the FAO. We need also to rationalize the work of the General Assembly. I believe that Canada and its ASEAN partners can collaborate to good effect to bring about these changes which we believe would help to revitalize the United Nations. And we are all realistic here. We know that what is needed is not a series of dramatic statements - but a step by step gradual and

practical approach to strengthening this important body. It is by no means a perfect institution but we are a lot better off with this institution operating effectively than we would be without it.

Mr. Chairman, this Conference comes at a very significant time in Canada's relationship with the ASEAN countries. We are passing from the Philippines to Thailand as our Dialogue Co-ordinator. I believe that this happens at a time when the institutional and functional cooperation between Canada and ASEAN is working more effectively than at any time in the past. Following the Joint Cooperation Committee meeting between Senior Officials in Manila last September, there have been important exchanges in Ottawa between the ASEAN Ottawa Committee and the Canadian Government.

The development assistance dimension of our bilateral relationship continues to be of high priority. During the past year we have, I believe, made steady progress in the implementation of various projects which have been mutually agreed by Canada and ASEAN. The role of the ASEAN Ottawa Committee has been particularly useful in helping to maintain the momentum in project evaluation. In particular, the organization and delivery of Canada's development assistance to ASEAN have been considerably improved through the use of this consultative mechanism. Through it we have agreed to concentrate our assistance in environmental and natural resource management (particularly forestry and fisheries) and human resource development and training. Since 1982 we have committed some dollars 15 million to ASEAN regional projects. Current commitments to bilateral, institutional cooperation, industrial cooperation and regional projects which benefit the ASEAN countries now total more than dollars 225 million Canadian.

We would like to work with you to improve further the implementation and management of these programmes and to ensure that they bring true benefits to the region as a whole.

Mr. Chairman, we must look to the future of our relationship and to new initiatives which will add further substance to Canada-ASEAN relations. I am delighted that we will now sign the Instruments of Accession of Brunei to the Economic Cooperation Agreement. Within this Agreement, ASEAN and Canada must seek to pinpoint areas for improvement and concentration. In particular, I would hope that we can productively focus on the scope for investment and joint ventures. Canadian companies and

businessmen have a great interest in the ASEAN countries but sometimes find that they are inhibited from investing by host government regulations. It is in our mutual interest to overcome this problem in a constructive manner. I therefore hope that, both within the JCC context and in our bilateral discussions, there will be opportunities over the next year for real progress which will in turn enhance the range of commercial cooperation.

Mr. Chairman, our joint experience has shown that Canada and ASEAN can work together very effectively. There is a sense of rapport which comes from many shared attitudes and shared objectives. We can talk frankly, and when we disagree, we can constructively seek ways to resolve our differences. ASEAN is a remarkable success story largely because this sort of spirit has prevailed amongst its members. Between Canada and ASEAN, the dialogue is of a similar nature. From my perspective, I see our relationship with some of the world's most dynamic economies as setting a high standard by which my country's commitment to international cooperation can be measured. I assure you that the Canadian Government is determined to respond effectively to this challenge. I look forward to discussing some of these subjects further with you as we move into the next stage of this Conference.