

CANADA - ASEAN

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Dr. MacGuigan in Singapore for the Post-Ministerial Conference and . . .



Dr. Mark MacGuigan (centre), accompanied by the Canadian delegation, speaking to his ASEAN counterparts at the Post-Ministerial Conference.

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CANADA's Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan attended the Post Ministerial Conference of the 15th annual ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Singapore on June 17-18. During their two days of talks Dr. MacGuigan and his foreign minister counterparts from the five ASEAN countries discussed a wide range of international economic and political issues of mutual concern, including Cambodia, and reviewed the encouraging progress in the Canada-ASEAN relationship.

protectionist pressures in the international trading system could be resisted, and that to this end governments would work towards a successful GATT Ministerial Conference in Geneva in November.

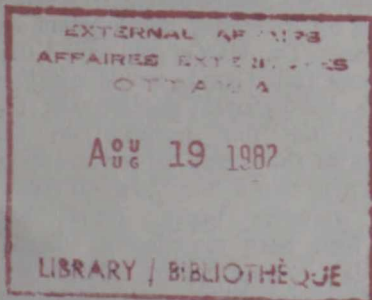
Other important international issues discussed were the Law of the Sea Treaty and questions relating to disarmament. Dr. MacGuigan shared ASEAN's concern at the alarming increase in expenditures devoted to the manufacture of armaments when funds could better be directed towards economic development. Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau addressed the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament on June 19 and pledged that Canada would work to halt the continued growth of conventional and nuclear weapons. Canada is the only country that has developed its own nuclear technology and has not used that technology to develop nuclear weapons.

International Issues

Having just participated at the Economic Summit of the seven major industrialized countries in Versailles in early June, Dr. MacGuigan was in a position to brief his ASEAN colleagues on the outcome, particularly with respect to the prospects for global negotiations on a wide range of international economic issues. Noting that Canada depends on international trade for almost 30 per cent of its gross national product, and that Canada has one of the most open markets in the world, Dr. MacGuigan expressed the hope that

Canada-ASEAN Relations Progress

Dr. MacGuigan reviewed in some detail the considerable progress that has been made in Canada-ASEAN relations since last year's ministerial meeting. The meeting between senior officials in Manila



SPECIAL FEATURE:

Canada Today
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last month had been most productive, he said, and specific areas for co-operation had been identified in the industrial and commercial sectors, in agriculture and forestry, energy, science and technology as well as transportation, communications and mineral resource development. In the near future co-operation will begin in several areas including collaboration between Canadian and ASEAN energy experts to reduce dependence on imported oil; a feasibility study on the setting up of a regional coal-handling centre; and a \$500,000-allocation for co-operation in oceanography. The Minister also drew attention to the signing last September of the Economic Co-operation Agreement, which came into force in June 1, 1982. The agreement covers co-operation in the industrial, technical, developmental and commercial spheres.

Trade Discussions

Dr. MacGuigan referred to the significant increase in two-way trade between Canada and ASEAN, which has tripled over the past six years and has now reached over \$1 billion annually. In recent years trade between Canada and ASEAN grew three times faster than Canada's trade with the rest of the world.

In response to ASEAN interest in Canada's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), Dr. MacGuigan announced that the Canadian government had recently agreed to extend the GSP for an additional 10 years and that it will soon be introducing legislation to implement cumulative rules of origin. Almost 90 per cent of ASEAN's exports to Canada enter duty free or under a GSP tariff.

Canadian Capabilities

Canada was looking for a greater recognition by ASEAN members of Canada as a country with high technology capabilities and as being a source of high quality goods and services. Canadian firms are anxious to participate in the ambitious development plans of ASEAN countries in areas such as energy and resource development, transportation and communications. The Canadian government, for its part, takes every opportunity to portray ASEAN as a priority market area to its private sector. Dr. MacGuigan noted, for example, that the Canadian government is currently preparing a series of trade development strategies outlining economic development and trade opportunities in the respective ASEAN countries to encourage Canadian companies to expand into the region.

Another means of developing closer economic co-operation, Dr. MacGuigan said, was through the encouragement of

... Thailand for an Official Visit



Foreign Affairs Minister Siddhi Savetsila welcomed Dr. MacGuigan to Thailand with the traditional garland of flowers.

investments and joint ventures in ASEAN. In this connection the Canadian government sponsored CANEX '82 in Singapore from June 22-24. Twenty-one small and medium-size Canadian companies were involved in this joint venture—technology transfer exhibition. Approximately 140 business people from the ASEAN countries participated.

Development Co-operation

Dr. MacGuigan also reviewed Canadian development co-operation with ASEAN, which includes two projects initiated last year—the Forest Tree Seed Centre and the Fisheries Port-Harvest Technology Project. He also described new instruments and mechanisms through which Canada has already begun to broaden the range of co-operation with ASEAN and its member countries. These include the Industrial Co-operation Program, through which the resources of expertise, knowledge and financing that reside in the private sector can be tapped; the Institutional Co-operation Program, through which the co-operation between Canadian universities, colleges, technical and other institutions and their counterparts in ASEAN can be financed; and the Management for Change Program, which enables Canada to contribute to projects to enhance managerial capabilities.

Support for ASEAN on Cambodia

Dr. MacGuigan said he had been impressed by ASEAN's growth and sense of common destiny and by the economic and social progress achieved in the region, which has been an essential

underpinning for peace and stability. Accordingly, Canada would continue to co-operate with ASEAN in the search for a peaceful settlement in Cambodia that would remove foreign occupation troops from that land, provide for the Khmer people to choose their own government free from external pressure, and halt the flow of refugees.

During the Post Ministerial Conference it was learned that a coalition had been successfully formed amongst the three Cambodian groups currently opposed to the Vietnamese occupation, and Dr. MacGuigan took the initiative to congratulate ASEAN for its consistent efforts in helping to bring this about.

Refugee Resettlement

So long as Hanoi refuses to end its occupation of Cambodia, Canada for its part would not help subsidize its military activities by extending development aid to Vietnam. Dr. MacGuigan added that at the same time Canada would continue to share the refugee burden that has fallen in the first instance on the shoulders of the people of the countries of ASEAN. Since the flow of Indo-chinese refugees began, more than 70,000 have been resettled in Canada.

Canada's commitment to ASEAN and to the development of relations with the member countries will be further underlined with the visit in September of Prime Minister Trudeau to all five ASEAN capitals (see story p.3).

All figures in this publication are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise specified.

DR. MacGUIGAN left Singapore to make a two-day official visit to Thailand June 19-20. During his stay Dr. MacGuigan was the guest of Thailand's Minister of Foreign Affairs Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila.

The first day of Dr. MacGuigan's Thai visit was mainly devoted to discussions of multilateral and bilateral matters. Among the issues considered were the development of Canada's recently announced aid program, Indochinese refugees, Canada-ASEAN relationships, and North-South questions.

On the trade side, attention focussed on the nature of the commercial relationship and the desire for increased complementary business contacts. Reference was also made to Canadian participation in the energy, transportation and agricultural sectors of the Thai economy.

At a dinner hosted by ACM Siddhi, Dr. MacGuigan noted that 15 years ago there was no Canadian embassy in Bangkok, trade was almost non-existent, and a development co-operation program was minimal. In short, the two countries were beyond each other's horizons—politically, economically, and socially.

It was, he said, indicative perhaps of a changing world that Thailand and Canada were now very much in each other's view. And that was how it should be, for beyond the superficial dissimilarities of the two countries there was a deeper commonality, he added.

A meeting with Thailand's Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanonda began the second day of Dr. MacGuigan's visit. During their talks they reviewed the regional situation and prospects for further co-operation between ASEAN and Canada.

Later, Dr. MacGuigan visited the Thai-Cambodian border for a military briefing at Wattana Nakorn and made a tour of Lahansai, in Buriram Province, to observe development projects for Thai citizens displaced by the border fighting.

While there, Dr. MacGuigan announced a contribution from the Canadian International Development Agency towards the Lahansai project, which is sponsored by His Majesty King Bhumipol.

Dr. MacGuigan said that the Canadian government's association with this project during the year of the Rattanakosin Bicentennial was intended especially to support the leadership in rural development taken by Thailand's royal family.

The Canadian assistance will provide an irrigation system for the more than 6,000 residents of the area. It will help residents of Amphur Lahansai to meet their basic nutrition requirements and to produce income by permitting the cultivation of a larger variety of crops in greater abundance than is possible at present.

Canada-ASEAN Developments

Canada's PM to Visit ASEAN

IT WAS recently announced in Ottawa that Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau will make official visits to all five member countries of ASEAN from September 19 to October 1, 1982.

His visits will afford the opportunity for exchanges of views on major international issues as well as bilateral political and economic matters of mutual interest.

Canada's relations with ASEAN have developed rapidly since 1975 and are multi-faceted. They include growing

commercial and economic relations, a shared interest in multilateral economic co-operation, such as the North-South Dialogue, and shared Commonwealth membership with Malaysia and Singapore.

ASEAN has contributed greatly to peace and stability in Southeast Asia. Canada has worked closely with its members in seeking a peaceful settlement in Cambodia and is playing a major role in international efforts to cope with the Indochina refugee problem.

CANEX '82: Forum for Joint Ventures

REPRESENTATIVES of 21 Canadian companies were in Singapore from June 22-24 to participate in Canada-ASEAN Joint Ventures 1982, or CANEX '82.

The purpose of CANEX '82 was to promote the transfer of appropriate technology through mutually beneficial joint-venture or licensing agreements between small and medium-size Canadian enterprises and their counterparts in ASEAN. More than 60 Singaporean businessmen visited the exhibition, joining 80 specially selected business representatives from the other four ASEAN countries.

CANEX '82 was funded and organized by the Canadian International Develop-

ment Agency under its Industrial Co-operation program, with the support of the Canadian embassies and high commissions in the region.

The Canadian firms represented at CANEX '82 manufacture a variety of products, ranging from grain drying systems, drilling equipment, electrical components, hydraulic valves and cranes, food processing systems, and communications equipment to solar heating technology.

A survey of the Canadian businessmen conducted at the conclusion of the exhibition showed that more than 80 opportunities identified with representatives from the five ASEAN countries.



More than 140 businessmen from ASEAN countries visited the exhibits of 21 Canadian manufacturing companies participating in CANEX '82 held at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel in Singapore.

As a result, almost all of the Canadian businessmen decided to extend their stay in the region to follow up the contacts made during CANEX '82.

Areas of Co-operation Agreed by Dialogue

THE third dialogue between senior officials of Canada and ASEAN was held in Manila from May 25-26. Mr. Sime Hidalgo, the Philippines' Director-General for ASEAN, and Mr. W.T. Delworth, Assistant Under-Secretary of State, Department of External Affairs, Canada, jointly chaired the two-day session. The Secretary-General of the ASEAN Secretariat Mr. Narciso Reyes also attended.

In addition to a review of current Canada-ASEAN projects—the Forest Tree Seed Centre and the Fisheries Post-Harvest Technology Project—officials identified specific areas for future co-operation in the industrial and commercial sectors, agriculture and forestry, energy, science and technology, transportation and communication, human resource development and information and culture. ASEAN officials welcomed the extended range of Canadian programs that are offered in industrial co-operation and institutional co-operation, and the Management for Change Program, in addition to the more traditional develop-

ment co-operation projects. The meeting also recognized the opportunities available through Canadian resources and expertise, especially in encouraging the transfer of technology.

The meeting agreed that pursuant to the ASEAN-Canada Economic Co-operation Agreement signed in September, 1981, the implementation of co-operative ventures would be channelled through the ASEAN-Canada Joint Co-operation Committee (JCC) which came into effect on June 1, 1982.

Guides to Encourage Business Opportunities

THE Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has commissioned a series of industrial guides for ASEAN to introduce Canadian businessmen to business opportunities in the region. Entitled "Canada-ASEAN: Industrial Co-operation Opportunities," the first two in the series—on Thailand and Singapore—were recently released. Volumes on Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines will follow shortly.

The first copy of the Singapore volume was presented to Mr. Chua Soo Tian, Divisional Director, Economic Development Board, at a recent luncheon held by the Canadian Business Group to mark the CANEX '82 exhibition (see story p.3).

The guides provide comprehensive reviews of each ASEAN country's economy, infrastructure, tax system, government policies and investment opportunities and are available at Canadian diplomatic missions in ASEAN capitals.

The preparation of the ASEAN guides under CIDA's Industrial Co-operation Program (ICP) reflects efforts to strengthen economic ties between Canada and the ASEAN countries. Under the ICP it is projected that mutually profitable business relationships between Canadian companies and their developing country counterparts can develop in the form of joint ventures, direct investments, management contracts, licencing agreements, co-production arrangements, technical co-operation, technology transfer, and information development and dissemination.

Vehicles Mission Has Successful Trip

A GOVERNMENT-LED mission of Canadian manufacturers of specialized airport maintenance and service vehicles travelled through Asia for a few weeks in April and May. Most of that time was devoted to the five ASEAN countries, starting with Thailand and finishing in the Philippines.

The mission comprised an officer of the federal Department of Regional and Industrial Expansion and representatives of six firms—Bombardier Limited, SMI Industries Limited, Walter Canada Incorporated and Canam Uptac Canada Limited, all from the Province of Quebec; Tri-Star Industries of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia; and Westank-Willock Limited of Regina, Saskatchewan. The object of the mission was to identify market opportunities.

During two-and-a-half days of intensive discussions with civil and military authorities and individual business representatives in Indonesia, the members of the mission received a warm reception and much interest was shown in products such as their aircraft towing tractors, crash rescue vehicles, high-lift service units, ambulances and refuelling trucks. Interest in such Canadian specialized airport units has already proved positive in Indonesia: a Canadian-built crash and rescue vehicle forms an important part of the safety equipment at the Curug Aviation Training Centre, just west of Jakarta.

In Malaysia, the group met with representatives from the Department of Civil Aviation, Malaysian Airline System and the Royal Malaysian Air Force, as well as with numerous local companies to discuss the development plans for civilian and military airports in the



Canada's Auditor-General K.M. Dye and the Deputy Auditor General G.P. Wilson visited several ASEAN capitals in late April and early May en route to the Board of Governors Meeting of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions held in Manila. The Canadians were able to compare notes on international developments in this very specialized field when they met their auditor counterparts in Singapore, the Philippines, and Thailand, where Mr. Dye is pictured studying papers with Mr. Tawee Noonpukdee (l).

country over the next few years and the requirements for airport vehicles. Also, some of the companies established representation for their product lines. All were encouraged by the results of their stay in Malaysia and are planning return visits in the near future.

As many of their products, such as ambulances and fire-fighting vehicles, have other applications, the group members met with hospitals and oil companies to describe the operation of the equipment, as they did in Singapore. The visitors were particularly impressed with developments in the city-republic and considered their stay fruitful because of the positive response received from the 12 companies and Changi airport officials they approached.

CCC Explains Services

THE Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) was formed in 1946 and provides specialized service to Canadian suppliers and foreign customers to facilitate Canadian exports. It does this by helping foreign customers find Canadian sources of goods and services or by acting as a prime contractor for foreign governments and international agencies on behalf of Canadian suppliers.

Senior officials from the CCC visited ASEAN recently to explain the operations of the agency to both government and private sector within the region. In Singapore discussions were held with the Public Utilities Board, Department of Trade, and Public Works Department, while in Indonesia the visiting Canadians met with officials from the Ministry of Communications, State Railway, Bank of Indonesia, and the Ministry of Defence. The CCC has been involved with 23 Canadian suppliers for a rural road project worth more than \$15 million to be built under the supervision of the Directorate General of Highways, Public Works Department in Indonesia.

In Thailand CCC officials met representatives from various civilian and military agencies. Earlier this year a \$650,000 contract between CCC and the Petroleum Authority of Thailand was signed for a six-months-long project related to the start-up operations and onshore maintenance of the natural gas pipeline which runs from the Gulf of Thailand to Bangkok. The CCC has engaged the Calgary firm ALGAS Engineering Services to carry out the contract, which will involve the supervision and training of Thai personnel in repair procedures, safety measures, inspection and monitoring.

Last year CCC achieved sales of over \$550 million, involving more than 500 Canadian companies and 50 foreign buyers.



Among the specialized equipment promoted by members of the Canadian airport maintenance and service vehicle manufacturers' mission that visited ASEAN was this versatile baggage handler.



The Canadian Council for South East Asian Studies (CCSEAS) held its second international (and twelfth annual) conference jointly with the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore from June 21-24. Over 120 academics and research specialists from Canada, ASEAN and other countries attended the conference which was funded in part by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The conference theme was "Village-Level Modernization: Livelihoods, Resources and Cultural Continuity." Mr. W.T. Delworth, Assistant Under-Secretary of State, Department of External Affairs, presented an address on behalf of Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs Dr. Mark MacGuigan on Canada's relationship with Southeast Asia.

Pictured at the start of the conference are (l-r): Dr. Geoffrey Hainsworth, Institute of Asian Research, University of British Columbia; Dr. Rodolphe de Koninck, President of the CCSEAS; Dr. Kernial Sandhu, Director of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies; Mr. L. Michael Berry, Canadian High Commissioner to Singapore; and Mr. W.T. Delworth.

Around the Region

Canadian Connections with ASEAN Countries

INDONESIA

Indonesia's Minister of Manpower and Transmigration, Dr. H.A. Zain, recently inaugurated the **Samarinda Vocational Training Centre (VTC)** in East Kalimantan. The occasion also marked the completion of Phase I of the project, which is supported by the Canadian International Development Agency.

Since the Samarinda VTC began offering courses in early 1980, nearly 500 students have graduated as welders, automotive mechanics, heavy-duty mechanics, heavy-equipment operators, electricians, and chain-saw operators, and are finding employment without difficulty.

The modern facilities at the centre include a 12,500 hectare site for the training of workers in forest industries. The Indonesian government built, installed and furnished classrooms, offices and dormitories and has reserved a generous concession site for the students to practice their new trades.

Canada's contribution, valued at approximately \$4 million, is divided evenly between technical assistance in the form of instructor training and support and capital assistance in the supply of training aids, materials and equipment used to stock the workshops, classrooms and forest concession site.

One important characteristic of the



Dr. Harun Alrasjid Zain (l) and Canada's Ambassador to Indonesia William H. Montgomery, in hard hats, cut a ceremonial log to mark the opening of the Samarinda Forest Vocational Training Centre.

technical assistance aspect of the project was its ASEAN flavour, introduced when Indonesian instructors took advantage of the facilities of the Teachers' Technical Training College in Kuala Lumpur to brush up their teaching skills before the arrival of their students. Canada looks forward to participating again in this kind of tripartite co-operation for development.

Phase II of the development of the Samarinda VTC will provide for the addition of instructors in six trades that are in great demand by wood-processing industries, such as saw mills and plywood factories.

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In Indonesia, **Mission Administered Fund (MAF)** allocations — money provided each year by the Canadian International Development Agency to be used at the discretion of Canada's embassies and high commissions throughout the developing world to foster small-scale development activities—have been concentrated on rural development since 80 per cent of Indonesia's 150 million inhabitants still live in rural areas.

Projects concerning health and water supply, vocational and community development training, agriculture, promotion of the credit union movement, and appropriate technology have all been carried out under the MAF program.

Innovative projects that have the potential for duplication and substantial local participation are given preference. An example is the construction of a small number of ferro-cement rain water collectors made from a frame of chicken-wire (later bamboo) and covered with cement to act as water storage tanks in a very dry area near Jogjakarta in Java. This project was carried out in co-operation with the Indonesian appropriate technology group Dian Desa and its example has led to the widespread diffusion of this simple technology throughout the area.

Another example is the printing of an edition of a school and community practical health manual by Yayasan Essentia Medica, a development health publishing foundation. The manual has been sent to over 3,000 primary health care centres. It is often the first practical aid of its kind to reach the doctors, health workers and teachers who need it.

Change and improvements in the lives of those affected by MAF projects may be slow and incremental—or they may be swift and dramatic. Whatever the result,

the critical factor has been the infusion of a small amount of MAF money which when coupled with local initiative and enthusiasm has led to a successful project.

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For an increasing number of Canadian executives the vast and populous country of Indonesia now falls clearly within their international field of vision. Moreover, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the many geographic similarities (apart from climate) between Canada and Indonesia provide commercial and industrial opportunities on a large scale.

The process of changing Canadian and Indonesian perceptions was given an additional boost in late May when a high-level Indonesian **trade and investment mission** of 40 members visited the cities of Vancouver, British Columbia, and Calgary, Alberta and met with interested Canadian businessmen and government officials in specified industrial sectors.

Forestry and forest products—vital to the economies of both countries—were the focus of much attention, and mutually beneficial trading arrangements as well as consulting opportunities and joint-venture possibilities were examined in detail. Discussions were held on the mining, smelting and fabrication of non-ferrous metals, and also on industrial activities of mutual interest. The large Canadian enterprises of INCO and ALCAN already have major mineral-related investments in Indonesia, which account for Canada being ranked among the largest foreign investors in the country.

In Calgary, the focus was on potential links between Canadian and Indonesian business firms that supply products and services to their respective petroleum and natural gas industries.

The 1982 mission was the fourth in a series of visits abroad aimed at calling attention to Indonesia's large and rapidly growing resource-based economy. Building on a similar but shorter stay in Toronto, Ontario, last year, and in response to recent visits to Indonesia by British Columbia's Premier William Bennett and Alberta's Minister of State for Economic Development and International Trade Horst Schmid, the Indonesians chose this year to focus their efforts on Canada and in particular on two of its western provinces.

*

Canada World Youth, a private non-governmental organization supported by the Canadian International Development Agency, seeks to create among young people from Canada and the various exchange countries an increased interest and understanding in their own country, an awareness and understanding of the



Young Indonesians and Canadians test a hand pump they installed as one of their Canada World Youth projects in Petonggan Village, Riau Province in Sumatra.

other country, an experience of the realities of development both in Canada and the exchange countries and to engender personal commitments to furthering the development process at home and abroad.

In Indonesia, the 1981-82 program involved more youths than in any year since the first-1975—with 50 Indonesians and 50 Canadians participating in activities in Alberta and Newfoundland in Canada and in the Special Territory of Aceh and Riau Province on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia.

In Indonesia, the young Indonesians and Canadians were involved in small-scale projects such as bridge and road repair, water and sanitation work, harvesting crops and repairing community facilities, for example, a village mosque. Their volunteer labour symbolized in many respects the Indonesian concept of *gotong royong* or mutual voluntary self-help, and their impact should last well beyond the initial projects that the participants carried out.

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Canada is assisting Indonesia to increase **rice production** on the island of Lombok in Indonesia's eastern islands through the construction of a system of high level diversion (HLD) of water.

The system will take wet-season surplus water from the north-western part of the island through a series of canals and divert it to the south central part of Lombok, an area known as the "critical area." Approximately 7,000 hectares will be irrigated by the system, which will guarantee at least one rice crop a year to a significant part of this

critical area and help break the cruel cycle of drought, malnutrition and even starvation regularly suffered in past years.

Canada's involvement with the island of Lombok started in 1973 with a water resource development study conducted by Canadian consultants. In December 1979 a loan agreement was signed for \$12.6 million to assist the Indonesian government in carrying out the construction of the HLD system.

The Canadian money will be used to procure all foreign goods, services and materials needed in the construction, including equipment, and for a substantial portion of the associated local costs.

The Canadian consultant, Monenco, which currently has six engineers living on the island of Lombok, is now reviewing the design and preparing tender drawings for the first stages of construction. It is expected that construction of the HLD will be completed by 1986.

To ensure that all of the population of the critical area, and not just the land owners, benefit from the project, the Canadian International Development Agency is providing grant funds to identify other activities that perhaps could be developed on a co-operative basis. This grant will also be used to ensure that the necessary training in water management techniques will be given to both the population of the critical area, to ensure effective use of the water, and to the farmers in the north-western area who will have to make do with less water than they traditionally have had available.

MALAYSIA

The Canadian Minister of State for International Trade Edward C. Lumley recently announced Canada's decision to sign the sixth **International Tin Agreement**, which is scheduled to become effective on the July 1.

During the sixth ITA negotiations, the Canadian representatives successfully sought the establishment of a balance of rights and obligations for producing and consuming members, with mandatory consumer participation in the financing of the buffer stock and for improving the conditions for the use of supplementary export control measures.

Canada has been a consuming member of all five previous ITAs, beginning in 1956. The successive agreements have provided a continuing forum for producer-consumer dialogue.

*

On June 8, Canada's High Commissioner to Malaysia Gerald F.G. Hughes, presented a \$12,567 cheque to the Vice-Chancellor of the **Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia**, Y.B. Tan Sri Datuk Professor Awang Had Salleh, in support of the university's medical faculty project to identify disabled children more accurately.

The survey project will provide a means for determining the incidence of various disabling conditions among children in the three-years to nine-years age group and, through more accurate statistical data, permit agencies involved



Y.B. Tan Sri Datuk Professor Awang Had Salleh (l) accepts a cheque from Canada's High Commissioner to Malaysia, Gerald F.G. Hughes, in support of the Universiti Kebangsaan's medical faculty project.

in providing special services to manage medical and psychological care more effectively. The survey technique is being studied for its application to other developing countries.

Funding of the survey was made possible through the High Commission's Mission Administered Fund program provided by the Canadian International Development Agency.

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Canada's Minister for International Trade Ed Lumley announced that Canada's **Export Development Corporation (EDC)** has signed a financing agreement for \$3,887,567 to support the recent sale by de Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited of Downsview, Ontario, of two DHC-6, Series 310 Twin Otter aircraft, spares and related services to the Malaysian Airline System.

The EDC is a Canadian Crown corporation that provides a wide range of insurance and bank guarantee services to Canadian exporters and arranges credit for foreign buyers in order to facilitate and develop export trade.

*

A team of six engineers from **CAE Electronics Limited** of Montreal recently completed the installation and commissioning of a Boeing 737 flight simulator for the Malaysian Airline System (MAS). The simulator, installed in MAS' premises at Subang Airport near Kuala Lumpur, will be used for the training of pilots of the Malaysian national carrier as well as pilots of airlines of neighbouring countries.

CAE, which is regarded today as one of the world's leaders in the design and manufacture of commercial and military flight simulators, incorporated in the MAS simulator the latest technology available anywhere in the world. It is the first of two units to be provided by the company to Malaysia under the terms of a contract signed in 1980.

PHILIPPINES

The Canada-based Philippine Tour and Trade Center, with support from the Philippine Ministries of Tourism and Trade and Industry, organized display booths and cultural presentations as the Philippines' participation in the **Calgary Stampede** taking place from July 9-18.

This annual festival run by the city of Calgary in the oil-rich Province of Alberta offers the usual fun-in-the-Great-West tradition, with rodeos and chuckwagon races, parades, musical presentations, competitions, and the

international trade fair and exhibition in which the Philippines is taking part.

The Philippine display is being housed in the Big Four building, the festival's central edifice. It highlights Philippine indigenous crafts and other leading export products and also provides the forum for trade meetings between exhibitors and their Canadian business counterparts. The cultural presentations feature Filipino artists and entertainers.

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Philippine Energy Minister G.Z. Velasco accompanied by ministry officials and a representative from the Philippine National Oil Company visited Canada in May at the invitation of Canadian Energy Minister Marc Lalonde.

During his week long visit Mr. Velasco had discussions with Canadian counterparts in Ottawa, Toronto, Edmonton and Calgary, which focussed on potential areas for co-operation in oil and gas exploration, coal mine development, long term coal supplies, thermal power development and hydro-electrical development. The visit caps a two-year program aimed at encouraging closer co-operation in the energy sector during which a number of senior Canadians including Energy Minister Lalonde, British Columbia Premier Bennett and Alberta Economic Development and International Trade Minister Schmid have visited the Philippines.

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The **Pacific National Exhibition (PNE)**, the biggest annual exhibition in Western Canada and the sixth largest in North America, will be held from August 21-September 6, in Vancouver, British Columbia, with the Philippines as the sole-featured country. First Lady Madame Imelda Romualdez Marcos, has been invited to open the Philippine exposition.

An agricultural as well as entertainment fair, the PNE until recently mainly featured commercial exhibits by Canadian companies and distributors. This is only the second time that the PNE has considered foreign participation. Last year the People's Republic of China was featured.

This year, the show is billed as a "Salute to the Philippines." Three Philippine agencies—the Ministries of Trade and Industry and of Tourism, and the Design Centre Philippines—are co-ordinating efforts to produce a total picture of the country in trade, industry and investment, tourism and culture.

Non-traditional products will be displayed and sold by 87 enterprises. These are textile, garments and apparel, fashion accessories, furniture parts and fixtures, gifts and houseware, linens, bathshop items, processed foods, sporting

goods and other leisure products, electrical gadgets and electronics, metals and metal fabrication, non-metallic products, construction materials and services, leatherware and footwear.

A photography exhibit will provide the country's industrial profile and investment opportunities.

A tourism information centre will be on hand with the assistance of the Philippine travel agencies. Native dance troupes, Filipino artists and other groups will be flown in for a parade and a grand Filipiniana show. A five-screen audio-visual presentation will also be held.

The National Cottage Industry Development Agency will sponsor an arts and crafts exhibit of laminated shells and fibercraft for home furnishings.

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The need for augmenting the financial resources of the **Asian Development Bank** dominated the discussions at the fifteenth annual meeting of the Board of Governors, which was held at the end of April in Manila.

The theme was set in the opening address by the Philippines' President Ferdinand E. Marcos, who declared that economic co-operation has come to be recognized as the singular imperative of our time.

Negotiations on the third replenishment of the Asian Development Fund were completed during the annual meeting. The agreement to replenish the fund with new contributions totalling \$3.2 billion will allow the bank to lend concessional assistance to the bank's most needy developing member countries for the period of 1983-86. This amount was short of the original target because one major donor was unable to contribute its traditional share of the total replenishment. Canada agreed to maintain its traditional contribution of the replenishment and provide an additional contribution towards the shortfall, making it the third largest donor to the fund after Japan and the United States.

Negotiations on the bank's third general capital increase were also a major focus of attention at the annual meeting.

Prospects for co-financing development projects with commercial and export credit sources were explored at a workshop organized by the bank on the day before its annual meeting.

The workshop brought together about 300 participants from commercial banks, export credit agencies, and member countries' governments. The discussion focussed on the bank's current co-financing policies and practices, the need and availability of commercial and export credit financing in the developing member countries, and ways of stimulating more such co-financing of development projects in future.

Canadians from the Bank of Montreal, Bank of Nova Scotia, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, National Bank of Canada, Orion Royal Pacific Limited, the Toronto-Dominion Bank, the Canadian government and the Export Development Corporation (EDC) participated in the workshop. Mr. J. Ares, Senior Vice President of the EDC was invited as one of several special speakers.

Canada also implemented its commitment made at last year's annual meeting to contribute \$2.25 million to the bank's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF). It was Canada's fifth contribution to the TASF. The contribution may be used for financing the cost of Canadian services and related facilities, as well as services and facilities of those firms or individuals in developing member countries that are affiliated or associated with Canadian firms or individuals.

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Canadian Ambassador E.L. Bobinski recently signed two project agreements for livelihood projects in line with the **Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran program** sponsored by the Philippines' Minister for Human Settlements Madame Imelda Marcos.

One of the agreements, also signed by the Minister of Social Services and Development and representatives from the League of Associations for the Blind and Other Handicapped and the Manila Lion's Club, provides equipment for an envelope-making co-operative for the disabled. The co-operative will initially employ 15 people and the Ministry of Social Services and Development has undertaken to purchase the final product.

Under the other project agreement co-signed by Major General G.V. Tobias, General Manager of the National Housing Authority (NHA) and Ms. Mary Asceniero-Francisco, Manager of LJA Dressmakers, the Canadian Embassy will provide the equipment for a garment-making project at the NHA's Dagat-Dagatan resettlement area. The NHA will provide the building and project administration and LJA Dressmakers will train the workers and contract for the finished garments. The Dagat-Dagatan Sewer's Guild will initially number approximately 30 workers and is scheduled to become totally self-sufficient after two years.

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The International Development Research Centre of Canada has approved a \$423,600 grant for the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department to implement Phase III of its **Milkfish Research Project**.

Phase III, which covers a period of three years, will concentrate on



Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos presents Cedric Ritchie, Chairman of the Bank of Nova Scotia, with the Order of Sikatuna for exceptional and meritorious service in the field of international relations and Mrs. Ritchie helps.

When bestowing the award on April 27, President Marcos lauded Mr. Ritchie's efforts as chairman of the Canada-Philippine Council in Toronto. The Council is a group of very senior Canadian and Filipino corporate executives dedicated to strengthening commercial ties between Canada and the Philippines.

While in Manila, Mr. Ritchie was guest of honour at a dinner hosted by the Foreign Minister General Carlos P. Romulo. Mr. Ritchie also spoke at a special luncheon meeting of the Canadian Business Group. The Bank of Nova Scotia's regional headquarters for Asia was established in Manila in 1972.

refinement of techniques for breeding bangus that have developed since 1975. It involves research in milkfish fry production, nutrition and feed development, fisheries and ecology, pond culture and management, pathology, and aquaculture economics, as well as training and extension programs.

The Canadian grant will further boost the department's research on milkfish as well as the National Bangus Breeding Program, which was launched by the Philippine government in 1980. It now has 13 breeding stations in the 12 regions of the country stocked with 1,500 to 2,000 milkfish juveniles that, upon reaching the desired growth, will be transferred and raised in maturation cages for two to three years. The ultimate goal of the program is to provide a constant supply of milkfish fry in the Philippines as well as the other countries in the region.

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Northern Telecom of Toronto has won a \$2.5 million contract to supply a PABX (Private Automated Branch Exchange) system to the largest bank in the Philippines, the government-owned Philippine National Bank.

The bank will use the PABX for internal telephone communications within the main office and the five Manila branches, plus inter-branch communications. Linking the metro Manila offices will be the first step in establishing a nationwide inter-branch communications system.

SINGAPORE

The Singapore **Overseas Union Bank's** announcement in June that, with the approval of the Canadian banking authority, it has formed a fully-owned subsidiary headquartered in Toronto, makes it the first bank from the ASEAN region to set up operations Canada.

The Overseas Union Bank of Singapore (Canada) will offer comprehensive commercial banking services such as collecting deposits from both domestic and foreign customers, making loans to foreign and domestic companies, engaging in money market and foreign exchange operations as well as handling documentary bills and remittance business.

The bank expects to begin operating in September and has plans to open a second branch in another part of Canada in the future.

By having a subsidiary in Toronto, OUB hopes to bring its clients on both sides of the Pacific closer together and to meet their needs in the area of trade financing.

In due course, the Canadian company will be developed into an effective base to facilitate the economic and financial interaction between Canada and the ASEAN region.

The Toronto office will be the bank's latest link in its international network, bringing the total number of OUB's foreign offices to seven.

OUB was the first Singapore bank

to establish offices in London, Tokyo, New York and Brunei. It is also represented in Malaysia, Hong Kong and Los Angeles.

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The **Food and Hotel Asia '82** trade exhibition held at Singapore's World Trade Centre in May attracted the largest number of Canadian participants ever to attend a trade show in Singapore.

Exhibitors from 22 countries plied their fare to trade customers in crowds of the size that signal a successful show, and the 22 Canadian companies were encouraged by the interest shown in their merchandise.

It is estimated that export enquiries were received for more than 80 per cent of the Canadian products featured, among them cereals, fruits and nuts, frozen foods, fish, dairy products, and confectionery. The principal interested parties came from Australia, Malaysia, New Guinea, New Zealand, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia and Taiwan.

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Canada's High Commissioner L. Michael Berry and his wife Linda will depart Singapore in August at the completion of a three-year assignment. The new High Commissioner, George W. Seymour, will arrive in late August. Mr. Seymour has previously served in Indochina, the Hague, Colombo, and Washington and was most recently Director of the Staff Relations and Compensation Division in Ottawa. He will be accompanied by his wife Marie-Claire Seymour.

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Canada will be participating at the **Singapore International Fair** to be held at the World Trade Centre October 18-24. Organised by the Singapore Manufacturers' Association, the fair attracts all major ASEAN entrepreneurs and manufacturers. Last year's show had an attendance of 60,000 people and included booths from 12 foreign trade missions. This will be the first time that Canada has participated in the fair and reflects a growing interest in expanding commercial relationships with Singapore and its ASEAN partners.

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The **Singapore Manufacturers' Association** will be conducting a trade mission to Canada in September. A total of 10 firms are expected to participate, including trading and manufacturing companies in clothing, textiles, electrical and electronics goods, jewellery, toys, food and building supplies. The participants will visit Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto and Montreal to attend trade shows and hold discussions with Canadian businessmen and provincial trade officials.

The purpose of the mission is four fold: to introduce and sell Singapore products in the Canadian market; to purchase Canadian products and materials for production in Singapore; to establish agency relationships for the sale of Canadian products in Singapore and other ASEAN countries; and to examine the possibility of joint ventures between Canadian and Singapore companies.

THAILAND

Canada will initiate a \$250,000 scholarship program in honour of Thailand's Rattanakosin Bicentennial.

During the recent program review visit to Thailand by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Royal Thai Government highlighted the need for enhanced professional training in key growth areas of the Thai economy. Accordingly, the Government of Canada has agreed to offer as many as eight post-graduate and post-doctoral level scholarships per year for Thai citizens to study at Canadian universities. To mark the occasion on which this program is beginning these scholarships will be called the **Rattanakosin-Canada Scholarships**.

The scholarships will be directed at providing training at post-graduate levels in those specialized fields of study which will provide the greatest benefit to Thailand's development strategy. A committee of leading Thai citizens representing government, business and academic circles will be formed to determine each year the priority areas of study.

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The **Canadian Studies Program** at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University held its inaugural seminar in early June. Dr. H. Edward English, a professor of economics at Carleton University in Ottawa, gave a lecture on the North-South Dialogue and the Pacific Basin Community.

Dr. English said that in his view co-operation among countries around the Pacific Rim was already in better shape than in other regions of the world due to the converging of interest between the North and the South in developing trade and investment in ASEAN.

From the Canadian perspective, Dr. English felt that there was a shared concern between Canada and ASEAN with the liberalization of the market for raw materials as well processed goods from resource rich countries.

The Canadian Studies Program, under the direction of Dr. Wiwat Mungkandi, was established at Chulalongkorn earlier this year as Canada's contribution to expanding Thai-Canadian academic links



during the bicentennial year of the founding of Bangkok and the establishment of the Chakri Dynasty.

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Two leading Thai academics were among the several hundred delegates to attend the sixteenth annual conference of the **Law of the Sea Institute** held from June 21-24 at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

They were Dr. Phiphat Tangsubkul, Professor of Law at Ramkhamhaeng University and research associate at Chulalongkorn University, and Dr. Withaya Sucharithanarugse, an instructor in political science at Chulalongkorn University.

Financial assistance for their attendance at the conference, which was hosted by Dalhousie University's Ocean Studies Program, was provided by Canada's International Development Research Centre.

The Law of the Sea Institute, which is headquartered at the University of Hawaii, provides a neutral forum for the discussion of a wide range of issues pertaining to the uses of the sea and its resources. Its principal emphasis is on the International Law of the Sea as it may be expected to evolve in the future.

The theme of this year's conference, the first to be held in Canada, was "The Law of the Sea and Ocean Industry: New Opportunities and Restraints." In light of the importance that deep ocean mining assumed in the concluding session of the Law of the Sea III Convention, the discussions in Halifax were both lively and informative.

The attendance of the Thai academics served to further strengthen the relationship between Chulalongkorn and

Dalhousie universities. In December, 1981, the two universities co-sponsored the first ASEAN-wide seminar on the effect of the New Law of the Sea in this region. Dr. Phiphat, Thailand's leading academic in the study of the Law of the Sea, was a co-ordinator of the recent Bangkok seminar.

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Three officials from the Thai Ministry of Science, Technology and Energy recently completed a one-month study tour of Canada. The team began their visit in Ottawa, Ontario, and travelled from there across the country for briefings from representatives of both the public and the private sectors.

While in Ottawa the group visited Canada's National Research Council and discussed policy matters with officials of the Ministry of State for Science and Technology. From Ottawa they travelled to Toronto and Guelph, in Ontario; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Calgary, Alberta; and Vancouver, British Columbia to observe Canadian research facilities in many sectors including industry, agriculture and oil development technology.

The purpose of the study tour was to give the Thai team direct exposure to the science policy-making process in Canada and its practical application by public and private enterprises. The team also studied the financing of scientific research and project implementation and evaluation. It is hoped that the Canadian approach to science policy may serve as a model in the planned establishment of Thailand's own National Science Council later this year.

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Over 50 delegates from nations on the Pacific Rim attended the second Pacific Community Concept Conference in Bangkok in early June. Host of this gathering of leading businessmen, academics and government officials was Dr. Thanat Khoman, Deputy Prime Minister of the Royal Thai Government.

In his opening address Thailand's Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda called for increased economic co-operation among the countries of the Pacific and urged the Pacific Community to seek practical results through methodical efforts rather than seeking to formalize or institutionalize them.

Four separate groups were created to address major issues before the next Pacific Community Concept Conference, which is to be held in Jakarta in late 1983. A task force on trade and primary products, which will concentrate on agriculture, will be centred at the Pacific Economic Co-operation Committee of Thailand, while trade and manufacturing will be focussed in South Korea, trade



Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Thanat Khoman, host of the Pacific Community Concept Conference, talks with steering committee member Eric Trigg, Executive Vice President of the Aluminum Company of Canada.

and minerals at the Australian National University, Canberra, and investment and technology in Japan.

A high-level steering committee was established at the conference to oversee the task force work. Among those elected to that group was Eric Trigg, Executive Vice President of the Aluminum Company of Canada (ALCAN).

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The Canadian International Development Agency concluded a \$13-million loan agreement in March with the Royal Thai Government to participate in the second phase of the Accelerated Rural Electrification Program.

The funds will be used to purchase approximately 5,700 metric tons of Canadian aluminum ingots over a five year period. The aluminum will be processed into electrical conductors in Thailand, thereby providing a further significant value-added benefit to the Thai economy.

More than 8,000 villages in 27 provinces, mainly in the south and northeast of Thailand, are expected to benefit directly from the expansion of electrical services to rural areas. It is estimated that the project will provide direct social and economic benefits to 1,037,400 households and six million people.

The Provincial Electrical Authority will implement the program on behalf of the government and direct the Thai government's \$2.5 million share of the project.

Mr. Vitthaya Vejajiva, Thailand's new Ambassador to Canada, has kindly consented to share his "first impressions" of Canada and the evolving relationship between Canada and Thailand. . .

IT IS not always easy for a newly arrived ambassador to write about his first impressions of the country of his assignment, especially when it is the case of such a vast and varied country as Canada.

Whatever notions or thoughts crossed my mind during those early days in January—and there were a great many of them—the one that I still recall vividly is the sense of amazement and wonder at the distance that had to be travelled from Vancouver on the west coast to Ottawa, which is not even at Canada's eastern extremity. I suppose there are few countries in the world, besides Canada, where an ambassador can claim such a vast expanse of territory as his area of assignment.

So it was the extent, the sheer size of Canada that was the first to impress me, fill me with awe, and face me with a challenge of "long-distance" running.

Despite the three months of incessant freeze-up, at no time did my family or I feel the severity of the famous Ottawa winter. It may have been that in the first flush of activities in the process of settling in, the extraordinary warmth of initial contacts, friendship and hospitality we experienced from the people we met—from senior government officials, especially at External Affairs, parliamentarians and diplomatic colleagues to Canadians in other walks of life—helped to sustain us and enabled us not only to survive but thrive.

Coming from Thailand on assignment, albeit the first, to Canada, I was not altogether unfamiliar with the Canadian profile which is, in my own understanding as expressed before H.E. The Governor-General of Canada on the day of the presentation of my credentials, "a great country widely known and respected for its dedication to peace, freedom and the welfare of mankind, as evidenced by the constructive role it has played towards the solution of the multifarious problems of our modern-day world in whatever corner of the globe."

Relations between our two countries have always been excellent, sustained by a deep sense of mutual understanding and meaningful co-operation. We in Thailand have long learnt to appreciate Canada's valuable contribution towards the economic and social development and progress of our country. Canada's growing interest in Southeast Asia, especially her affinity with ASEAN's aspirations, has been formally evidenced in the ASEAN-Canada agreement on economic co-operation concluded in

September last year. This is the background against which I came to assume my duty in Ottawa, and the basis on which I have tried to proceed in fulfilment of my task.

During my initial four months in Ottawa I have witnessed a number of developments which have tended to confirm my preconceptions and expectations. In the recent crises of global proportions, Canada's role and standing in the world as the voice of moderation fortified by a keen sense of international responsibility has been re-affirmed and appreciated. Her traditional upholding of humanitarian principles continues to manifest itself in the unwavering provision of reliefs to disaster victims and refugees, including those along the Thai-Cambodian border.

ASEAN-Canada relations have been given a stimulus by the conclusion in September of the co-operation agreement—the first ever to be concluded by ASEAN with an individual dialogue partner. The third dialogue meeting recently held in Manila has assumed special and even historical significance, for from this first joint co-operation committee meeting, as prescribed by the agreement, there will emerge both the crystallization of concrete projects and the common strategy for mutual co-operation.

On the bilateral front, a most significant step was taken with the program review visit in early February of a high-level team from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to consult with the Thai government in an effort to co-ordinate Canadian participation with the current fifth five-year plan. The outcome was the drawing up of a master plan that will form the basis for Canadian co-operation with Thailand over the next five years, with a number of specific fields of priority clearly spelt out.

Significantly, co-operation in the industrial sector will be focussed on mineral exploration and exploitation and the development of energy sources, wherein Canadian advanced technology and expertise will be made available in response to Thailand's pressing needs and requirements.

In this respect, it is a striking and happy coincidence that where Canada excels is exactly where Thailand expects. Indeed, I would even venture to suggest that in the realm of overall resource management, where Canada has had a head start and yet is still grappling with its complexities and implications—economic, social, political or otherwise—Canada's experience can provide useful and even re-assuring guidance to Thailand, where not dissimilar symptoms and problems, engendering at times soul-searching considerations and debates, have begun to surface.

My recollection would not be complete without reference being made to the second Pacific Rim Opportunities Conference held in Toronto in February, which I was invited to attend along with my Ottawa-based diplomatic colleagues from the Pacific Rim countries. Considering that the avowed purpose of the conference was to arouse and stimulate the interest of the Canadian business community in the Pacific Rim region, it was apparent from the high attendance rate and the enthusiasm shown during the deliberations that PROC II was a great success. The message came out loud and clear for more Canadian economic presence in the region. As for ASEAN, it seemed that the positive economic elements common to all of us, especially our consistently high growth rate and favourable business conditions, were put across and well taken note of by Canadian participants. As clear proof of the interest in ASEAN thus aroused, many a business firm has since contacted my ASEAN colleagues in Ottawa and myself as a follow-up seeking detailed information on specific areas of development or even presenting concrete project proposals.

Speaking for myself as a newcomer to Canada, the conference presented a splendid opportunity for me to have first contact with trade and business circles and also with the banking community. I need hardly emphasize the pivotal role of the private sector in the conduct of our over-all economic relations with Canada. On this, Thailand, ASEAN and Canada are in complete agreement and, now, with PROC II as a stimulus, we can look ahead together with confidence to an increasingly active and direct participation by the Canadian private sector in ASEAN's development efforts.

But no matter how vital is the role of the business community in fostering economic ties that now form the substance of today's international relations, there are other elements of the private or non-governmental sector in Canada that, to a foreign diplomat, deserve no less attention on account of their possible contribution to the better understanding between the two countries. I have in mind, in particular, the influential corps of parliamentarians, such leaders of public opinion as the mass media and the academics, and the interested public in general.

The point I am making must be plain to all, for it is the most obvious and readily understandable aspiration of a diplomat stationed in the friendliest of countries to cultivate a totality of friendly relations, not confined to officialdom, based on fair knowledge and appreciation of each others persona and worth, which would, in turn, make possible a solid, multi-dimensional and

lasting link between the two governments and peoples. I feel reassured and gratified that the will to work for such a goal is there on both sides, and that, with past records of our mutual relations as a guide coupled with current encouraging developments, much progress will further be achieved.

It is in this context that I mention, finally and with great satisfaction, events that will definitely prove momentous to the relations between Canada and ASEAN and Thailand. I refer specifically to the participation of Dr. Mark MacGuigan, Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, at the dialogue held with ASEAN foreign ministers in Singapore in June, and his subsequent official visit to Thailand, the first such visit by a Canadian foreign minister. Later, in the year, the Prime Minister of Canada will be visiting all the five countries of ASEAN—another first for a Canadian Prime Minister.

These visits signify mutual appreciation of the value of our increasingly closer ties and provide the opportunity for high-level personal contacts as well as for reviewing all aspects of mutual relations and putting them in focus and proper perspective for the future.

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