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Notes for a speech by the
Right Honourable Joe Clark,
Secretary of State for
External Affairs, to the
ASEAN Post-Ministerial
Conference

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia
July 11, 1985.

Mr. Chairman,

Addressing my first ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference, I am pleased to begin by reaffirming the new Canadian Government's strong commitment to our relationship with the free nations of Southeast Asia. ASEAN has been successful in developing coordinated positions and in opening channels of dialogue with friendly countries outside the region. It has a truly internationalist view of the world. This is a perspective which Canada shares - and it is perhaps one of the reasons that we feel we can enjoy such an easy and constructive relationship with the ASEAN countries.

Mr. Chairman, there are three main issues to be discussed at the meeting today - Cambodia, the international economic situation and narcotics. I will be addressing each of these briefly and adding a fourth item of my own for informal consideration.

Let me start with Cambodia. In the past year resistance to the Vietnamese occupation - the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea - has been subjected to heavy attack. My Government condemned Vietnam for its action, in particular its flagrant violation of Thailand's territorial integrity. We are relieved that Vietnam did not succeed. The resistance forces have not been broken. That underscores the continued resilience and determination of the widespread opposition to Vietnam's policy. For our part, Canada fully supports the consistent efforts of ASEAN to achieve a

Vietnamese withdrawal, and, until that happens, Canada will continue to deny Vietnam development aid. Furthermore, in response to the ASEAN Joint Statement on February 11, Canada will increase its humanitarian assistance to the non-communist elements of the Coalition and will contribute almost \$3 million this year to refugee relief programs in Thailand. Finally, although Canada has already accepted approximately 100,000 refugees from Southeast Asia, we will continue to do our fair share in the future.

The second major item, the international economic situation, encompasses issues of direct importance to the future prosperity of all participants in this meeting including the new round of multilateral trade negotiations. Canada firmly believes that it is vital for the international community to enter into such a new round in the near term. We are pleased at the ASEAN Statement concerning a new round. A new round would do more than continue to liberalize world trade and rejuvenate the multilateral trading system. It would be critical to our collective efforts to contain and rollback protectionism. Canada believes that a successful meeting must offer advantages to everyone - both developing and developed countries. We share with ASEAN a common interest in trade, both in resource products and in agriculture. We want to work with ASEAN to identify other areas of common interest, and, to that end, I am sending a trade policy mission to Southeast Asia in September to discuss in detail issues currently before the GATT and preparations for a new round.

Before leaving the international economic situation, let me observe that the note which ASEAN directed to the Economic Summit countries was both appreciated and used by Canada at the Bonn meeting. In addition, I would draw your attention again to the Canadian Third Window Proposal of Bonn - Prime Minister Mulroney's initiative to make World Bank financing available on more affordable terms.

There is a new, and extremely important, issue on the agenda of this year's Post-Ministerial Conference. This is the urgent need to act together to combat the menace of international narcotics trafficking. Mr. Chairman, illicit drugs are a cause of human degradation and social corruption in all our

countries. Like terrorism, international narcotics trafficking is an evil of global dimensions - and it is an evil which can only be combatted if we work together. I regret to say Canada is a major consumer of illicit drugs - including heroin - drugs that come partly from Southeast Asia. We want to stop that traffic. It is an urgent Canadian priority to get on with the war against narcotics. We are very pleased by the cooperation we already enjoy with ASEAN countries, and want to build upon our existing program of law enforcement and poppy eradication.

In this spirit, we whole-heartedly commend ASEAN for formulating a draft resolution to address the serious problems of drug abuse and trafficking. We intend to give immediate effect to some of its operative paragraphs by offering funds for integrated rural development projects in Thailand such as crop substitution, income replacement, and other measures, bilaterally or through UNFDAC. This new initiative would be additional to our normal development assistance program in Thailand. As you are aware, there was also intensive discussion on the narcotics issue by Heads of Government at the Bonn Economic Summit. One result is that a group of western experts on drugs will convene in Bonn July 17-18 to prepare for a Conference of Foreign Ministers on this subject in the fall.

Let me now raise my additional point: Within the past month, the world has witnessed four airline tragedies claiming well over 300 lives - Frankfurt, Beirut, Narita and Air India. Three have proven to be the direct result of terrorism; the fourth is still being investigated and the possibility of sabotage cannot be ruled out. Terrorism is cowardice. It attacks civilians by surprise. Targetting civilian aircraft is particularly vicious. When killing is so random, no nation is immune. No person, however young or innocent, or full of promise, is exempt from the blind malice of international terrorism.

Canada is at the forefront of efforts to tighten international cooperation to protect airlines from terrorism. We were a moving force in the drafting of the Bonn Declaration of 1978. In March of this year, we submitted working papers to the Bonn Summit Expert's Group on Airline Safety. This Canadian initiative was designed to increase airline security.

Two weeks ago, my colleague, our Minister of Transport, made a series of specific proposals to the ICAO Council in Montreal. We will be making further proposals to respond to terrorism, and look forward to working, with all our friends, to stop these frontal attacks on civilized behaviour.

Mr. Chairman, we have a heavy program ahead of us during the coming days. I look forward to your insights on these compelling international issues which confront us all. I am confident we can make real progress in meeting the challenges we face together.