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MCDUGALL ATTENDS MEETING OF ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, announced today that she will attend the annual Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), July 21-24, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Canada participates in this forum as one of seven dialogue partners along with Australia, the European Community (EC), Japan, Korea, New Zealand, and the United States.

"Canada's links with ASEAN are very important," said Mrs. McDougall. "ASEAN has been highly successful in ensuring peace and stability in South East Asia. We are very encouraged by recent progress on Cambodia. This meeting also gives me the opportunity to identify ways Canada's growing and varied ties with ASEAN members can be further strengthened."

The PMC, which follows a meeting of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers, presents ASEAN dialogue partners with the opportunity to meet and discuss future plans in the region over the next year. For the first time, Korea will participate as a dialogue partner. Also for the first time, China has been invited to observe the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. The Deputy Premier of the Soviet Union will also be in attendance.

Discussions in Kuala Lumpur will include consideration of the London Economic Summit, the Cambodia peace process, Indo-Chinese refugees, human rights and democratic development, environmental co-operation, security in the Asia Pacific region, development co-operation, Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC), and the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. In addition, Minister McDougall is expected to hold bilateral talks with several ASEAN and dialogue partner Foreign Ministers.

Since Canada became an ASEAN dialogue partner in 1977, bilateral relations have steadily grown to encompass trade, investment, cultural and academic exchanges, and co-operation in the fields of security, the environment, and development. The Canada-ASEAN Centre, established in 1989, in Singapore, will enhance relations in these and other areas and ensure Canada can respond effectively to the rapid development of the ASEAN region.

While in Kuala Lumpur, Mrs. McDougall will sign with Prince Mohamed of Brunei Darussalam, Canada's current dialogue partner in ASEAN, three Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) worth \$24 million. Developed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the MOUs relate to three development co-operation projects in the areas of marine science, fisheries and solar energy.

ASEAN includes Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

- 30 -

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