

News Release

Communiqué

Department of
External
Affairs



Ministère des
Affaires
extérieures

No. 125

June 23, 1988.

VISIT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TO JAPAN AND THAILAND

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, will be visiting Japan June 28 - July 3 to hold Foreign Ministers' Consultations with his Japanese counterpart, Sousuke Uno. From July 6 to 9 he will attend the annual meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Association of the South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Thailand. He will remain in Bangkok until July 11 for an official bilateral visit.

The consultations in Japan, the sixth between Canadian and Japanese Foreign Ministers, reconfirm the importance that Canada attaches to its relations with Japan, its second largest trading partner and a major source of investment. Mr. Clark and Mr. Uno will review the bilateral relationship, and discuss international political and economic issues such as regional security in the Asia Pacific region. This will be their first opportunity to continue discussions of key multilateral economic issues raised at the Toronto Economic Summit. Mr. Clark will also participate in a ground-breaking ceremony for Canada's new Embassy in Japan.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

The annual ASEAN foreign minister's conference brings together the Foreign Ministers of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand with their counterparts from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Japan, and the European Community. Canada has been a privileged interlocutor of the Association since 1977.

Discussions this year are expected to focus on regional security issues, in particular developments in Indochina and prospects for an early withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia. Mr. Clark will brief the meeting on the Toronto Economic Summit, emphasizing the issues of special interest to ASEAN such as the Uruguay Round of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN), and the Mid-term Ministerial Review Conference in Montreal, December, 1988; trade in agricultural products, and the Canada-USA Free Trade Agreement.

The ASEAN countries possess an enviable record of economic growth, exceeding virtually all other regions in the developing world. Canada's trade with ASEAN amounted to \$1.833 billion in 1987, with a balance of \$16 million in ASEAN's favour.

While in Thailand, Mr. Clark will sign an Economic Cooperation Agreement to provide further impetus to the growing economic and commercial exchanges between the two countries. Two way trade in 1987 amounted to \$400 million, and is expected to reach \$500 million in 1988. He will sign several agreements dealing with development cooperation projects in the natural resources and environmental sectors, and industrial cooperation.

Mr. Clark will also exchange legal instruments to bring into effect the Transfer of Offenders Treaty which Canada and Thailand signed in 1983.