

Statement

Secretary of
State for
External Affairs



Déclaration

Secrétaire
d'État aux
Affaires
extérieures

90/44

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NOTES FOR A SPEECH BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOE CLARK,
DURING THE "SIX PLUS ONE" MEETING
AT THE ASEAN POST-MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

JAKARTA, INDONESIA

JULY 28, 1990.

Thank you, Your Royal Highness, for your overview of the dialogue relationship and for the high level of personal interest you have shown in Canada's dialogue partnership. I have particularly appreciated your visit to Canada last fall and I am pleased that you will be bringing all of your ASEAN colleagues with you when you come back to Canada for our meeting in Jasper in October.

Both Canada and ASEAN can be very pleased with the tremendous efforts of our private sectors in advancing trade and investment between us.

Bilateral trade between Canada and ASEAN members reached \$3 billion in 1989, more than double the level of 1986. Our bilateral trade has been growing at the remarkable rate of 26% a year through the last decade. But it has not come close to achieving its full potential. ASEAN and Canada remain comparatively modest players in each other's markets, still accounting for only 1% of each other's total trade.

Bilateral investment presents a similar picture: the value of Canadian investment in ASEAN reached \$1.5 billion in 1989, up from \$800 million in 1980. But this too falls short of its potential. I am particularly disappointed that we have not seen more ASEAN investment in Canada, despite the tremendous opportunities resulting from the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement.

We will continue to emphasize trade missions, conferences and market studies to promote closer economic and investment ties with ASEAN, particularly through the private sector.

What government do best is develop framework for trade and investment. Canada initiated bilateral trade consultations with ASEAN Governments in the spring, focussing specifically on market access issues within the multilateral trade negotiations.

The successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round offers the best means of advancing long-term prospects of greater trade between Canada and ASEAN. The meeting of ASEAN Trade Ministers with their APEC counterparts in Vancouver in September can play a critical role in that process.

I am very pleased that representatives of the ASEAN-Canada Business Council (ACBC) participated in the Joint Cooperation Committee meeting in Brunei Darussalam last November.

The next JCC, to be held in Canada in 1991 should reaffirm full partnership with the private sector, and should engage representatives fully in JCC deliberations.

I have asked the Canadian Chapter of the ASEAN-Canada Business Council to consult with its ASEAN private sector partners on specific proposals for their engagement in the JCC. We might want to form a private sector working group to advise on how to enhance Canada-ASEAN economic cooperation.

Our seven Governments might also want to revise the Canada-ASEAN Economic Cooperation Agreement in 1992, to reflect a new relationship with the business community.

Such a step would be in keeping with the directives of ASEAN Heads of Government in 1987 to place new emphasis on partnerships with the private sector.

One year ago, I had the pleasure of opening the Canada-ASEAN Centre in Singapore. That occasion marked the beginning of a new phase in Canada-ASEAN relations, and coincided with a decentralization of the management of the Canadian International Development Agency.

Since the opening of the Centre, four ASEAN development projects have essentially been planned and approved in the field, representing over \$24 million in funding commitments for the next three to six years.

We will shortly conclude a memorandum of understanding on phase two of the Programme on Management of Living Marine Resource. That project is valued at approximately \$11 million over the next six years, and demonstrates the increasing cooperation between Canada and ASEAN on Environmental Issues, and our common commitment to sustainable development.

The other area of special focus for the Centre has been human resource development, a long-standing area of cooperation between Canada and ASEAN.

Among the initiatives managed by the Centre last year was the organization of a number of short-term training courses in Canada. Last month, twelve ASEAN satellite communications experts participated in a training session held at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology.

We are in the process of planning with the ASEAN Deans of Schools of Graduate Management a long-term programme to upgrade business management training in the region.

The Centre has been active in building partnerships with non-governmental institutions in the region, including providing support for the Fourth Asia-Pacific Roundtable organized by Malaysia's Institute for Strategic and International Studies (ISI) in Kuala Lumpur.

The Roundtable is quickly becoming the foremost venue in Asia Pacific to discuss broad security and strategic issues affecting the entire region.

Another major priority has been to support regionally-based women's groups promoting development in ASEAN. During the last year, the Centre has provided scholarships for over 50 women managers in both public and private sector institutions to take short-term training at the Asian Institute of Management in Manila.

I think that we have made a good start with the Centre. However, its full potential remains to be realized. I am very pleased today to introduce Mr. Ian Robertson, the new Executive Director of the Canada-ASEAN Centre. Mr. Robertson has had a long association with ASEAN. He also enjoys the distinction of having attended the first Canada-ASEAN dialogue meeting in Manila in 1977.

I will be asking Mr. Robertson to speak about his plans for the Centre during our "One Plus One" meeting later today.

Our meeting in Jasper will be an important chance to bring the Canada-ASEAN relationship to its full potential.

I understand that ASEAN Ministers have never before undertaken this type of meeting with a dialogue partner. I am very pleased that the first partner will be Canada.

I have invited several of my Canadian Ministerial colleagues, including the Minister of International Trade, and the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology, to join us at our retreat to discuss how their responsibilities could be applied to enhancing the Canada-ASEAN relationship.

The Jasper meeting will be a milestone in our relations and represents an historic opportunity to make ASEAN better known within Canada. Indeed, what we might accomplish among ourselves will be only one small part in the process of building closer relations between our countries.

As Governments, we have already come a long way in discovering and understanding one another better. Now it is time to promote that same friendship and understanding among our peoples.

A programme of events will be organized in and around Calgary, Alberta to promote business, education and other non-governmental links between Canada and ASEAN.

We are working closely with your missions in Ottawa and through our posts in the region to develop a strong slate of participants and an attractive program.

Your Royal Highness, colleagues, it has been ten years since ASEAN Foreign Ministers have been inviting their counterparts from dialogue countries to these annual consultations.

I look forward to being able to reciprocate the hospitality which you have shown me over these last six years.