

Statement

Secretary of
State for
External Affairs



Déclaration

Secrétaire
d'État aux
Affaires
extérieures

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

"CANADA AND ASEAN PARTNERS IN PEACE AND PROSPERITY"

NOTES FOR A SPEECH BY

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOE CLARK,

DURING A DINNER FOR THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS

AT THE RANCHMEN'S CLUB

CALGARY, ALBERTA

OCTOBER 4, 1990.

Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is an evening of firsts. It is the first time I have had the privilege of welcoming my fellow Foreign Ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to this country. It is the first time those Foreign Ministers have been hosted together abroad by any individual country anywhere. And it is the first time Calgary has been able to extend its traditional warm welcome to a delegation of senior leaders from Southeast Asia, a part of the world that is of such increasing importance to Canada and Alberta.

That this event marks so many firsts is appropriate. That reflects the strong commitment of the Canadian government to help build a foundation of peace and prosperity within and across the Pacific which will benefit us all, whether on trade, or aid, or security, or the environment. What this is about is Canada's partnership with ASEAN -- a partnership for peace, a partnership for prosperity.

It was not many years ago that Canadians, including Albertans, regarded the countries of Southeast Asia as distant places, places of magic or places of conflict, but places far from our principal priorities and interests. That attitude is beginning to change, but it has to change even more. Because our future is increasingly a Pacific future, our prosperity is increasingly a Pacific prosperity and the peace we know and cherish will be increasingly affected by a stable peace in Asia. ASEAN is a key element of that peace and prosperity.

The achievement of ASEAN's members is part of a Pacific economic miracle which knows no equal in history. While the countries of Europe were building their armies and their arguments, the Pacific region was creating an economic miracle. That used to be known as the Japanese economic miracle. It is no longer just Japanese, it is the Pacific economic miracle and the countries of ASEAN -- Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand -- are playing their part.

The centre of global economic activity is shifting towards the Pacific, and it is shifting fast. That is of immense importance to Canada and to Alberta. In 1983, Canada started trading more across the Pacific than we did across the Atlantic. We expect our exports to the Pacific to grow by at least 50 per cent over the next 10 years. We depend more on trade with the Pacific than the United States does, more even than Australia.

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And it is Western Canada which depends the most on Asia. The four western provinces account for three-quarters of all Canadian exports to Korea and Japan. In sectors such as oil and natural gas technology, Alberta trades more with the Pacific than it does with the United States. Between 1982 and 1989, Alberta's trade with Europe and the U.S.S.R. actually dropped by an annual rate of 11.5 per cent. Yet exports to the Asia-Pacific region grew on average by 8 per cent annually -- more than to any other region including the United States. That is a dramatic shift.

Canadian trade with ASEAN countries reached \$3 billion last year. That's double the figure for 1986 and four times the figure of less than a decade ago. Alberta's own exports report an even more dramatic pattern of growth. Since 1982, Alberta's exports to Singapore have risen by about 50 per cent. Exports to Malaysia have grown by more than three fold, to Indonesia by seven fold, to the Philippines by 13 fold and to Thailand by 17 fold. In 1982, Indonesia did not even feature on Alberta's export charts. Today, it is Alberta's 10th most important customer. In 1982, Thailand stood in 60th place on that list; it is now number 18 and rising fast.

And the future is even brighter. Alberta technology for remote sensing has already found markets in Malaysia and elsewhere in ASEAN, and that market is growing fast. In the oil and natural gas sector, there is an immense market for energy technology, engineering and systems management. For example, Indonesia plans to double its natural gas exports in 10 years. Malaysia has gas resources rivalling Alberta's and is developing that resource fast. And Thailand is reporting oil and gas finds of global rank. As Novacorp, Asamera, Challenger Drilling and others will testify, that is a market made for Alberta.

In the agricultural sector, as ASEAN urbanizes, there will be a skyrocketing demand for agricultural equipment, storage and distribution systems, animal and plant genetics, and fertilizer systems. And urbanization will lead to higher demand for other things -- urban transportation systems, health care services, telephone grids, recycling technology, building components -- and the services required to make them all work. Those too are Alberta markets.

ASEAN's accomplishments and its role are unique. Founded in 1967 during a time of intense conflict in that part of the world, it has since developed into a flexible organization for co-operation and dialogue among its members and others on a variety of regional and global issues -- economic and political. Through an impressive mixture of political imagination and solidarity, it has become a singular force for moderation and peace.

Part of ASEAN's success has been based on the unique relationship it has developed with countries outside the organization -- its so-called "dialogue partners." Canada is one of those partners; the others are Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and the European Community. Canada has been a dialogue partner since 1967. And I have had the pleasure of attending annual "dialogue meetings" in each of the six ASEAN capitals, most recently this July in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Those meetings are immensely useful. They give Canada a clear understanding of regional problems and ASEAN's perspective on global issues. And they have provided Canada the opportunity to outline directly our perspectives and concerns. That dialogue may not produce headlines. But it does help all partners solve problems before they become crises -- before they become headlines.

But the members of ASEAN have played an important role in dealing with crises as well. The leadership they have shown on the question of Indochinese boat people has been exemplary. So too has been the leadership displayed in helping to end the crippling and costly conflict in Cambodia. I pay tribute to the energy and vision of my colleague from Indonesia, Ali Alatas, whose untiring search for a just and lasting solution to that conflict deserves the highest praise. That effort, finally, may now be paying off.

Relations between ASEAN and Canada are strengthening across the board, on all issues and through many channels -- governmental, non-governmental and private-sector. The involvement of business is central to the relations between Canada and ASEAN. The ASEAN-Canada Business Council, the ACBC, established in 1986, is active in encouraging business links, and Don Olafson, Canadian chairman of the ACBC, is here tonight. The Council is holding seminars this week in Calgary, helping to highlight new opportunities for Canadian firms in ASEAN. We are also involving the private sector, through the ACBC, in the regular meetings between Canadian and ASEAN officials which occur every 18 months.

Business has also become an important element of the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) aid strategy in the region. That strategy emphasizes business links and institutional co-operation, human resources development, education, technology transfer, and sustainable development. Those programs help develop expertise in ASEAN countries, expertise that will in turn enhance trade with Canada through development and through personal contacts.

The relationship between efficient and effective aid and future trade is demonstrated by the example of Thailand. In the 1950s and 1960s, when Canada's Official Development Assistance efforts first began, Thailand was a poor country suffering the ravages of war. Canada became an active aid donor. Since then, in 1979, we led the world in helping the boat people. Our development assistance over this period has helped produce a strong trading relationship. Canadian trade with Thailand went from \$150 million nine years ago to \$765 million last year.

Some of the companies represented here tonight know how Official Development Assistance can open doors. Novacorp, which has been so successful in the Malaysian natural gas sector, credits its initial successes in that market to the opening provided by CIDA. Willowglen Services, which has sold its high-technology data system to Singapore, found its contract as part of a CIDA mission. So CIDA does not just stand for aid. It also stands for trade.

Canada's newest innovation in its development co-operation with ASEAN is the Canadian ASEAN Centre, which I opened last year in Singapore. That centre will encourage the growing links between that region and this country. Its principle is partnership -- with industry, governments, universities, non-governmental organizations, and individuals. Canada is the only country to have taken such an initiative, an initiative that has prompted interest from many others. Ian Robertson, the new executive director, is here tonight, and tomorrow a distinguished advisory council for this unique centre will be announced.

Beyond aid and trade, I am very pleased with the enhanced level of our political contacts. Those contacts build trust and understanding. There are regular parliamentary exchanges and there have also been regular ministerial visits to the region. Most

recently, all six Trade Ministers of the ASEAN states were in Vancouver in August, along with other colleagues from the Pacific region, working together to find success in the all-important Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

The Province of Alberta has a special relationship with ASEAN countries. For example, in the Alberta higher education system, there are 690 students from ASEAN countries. That includes a unique training program now running at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. More than 2700 ASEAN students have studied in Alberta since 1986. Many of those students have gone on to become senior business people, officials and ministers in ASEAN governments. Those personal links build prosperity and partnership between Canada and ASEAN. And this week, the Government of Alberta has helped introduce special projects in its school system to increase awareness of ASEAN-Canadian relations.

I, along with many of my colleagues in this room, have just come from the United Nations. Before the General Assembly, I outlined some ideas for a new approach to security, co-operative security, and suggested some specific ways in which that concept might be moved forward.

Co-operative security is based on the recognition that peace is more than the absence of war. That security has ceased to be something to be achieved unilaterally and through military means alone -- that security has become multidimensional and co-operative. That security relates not only to peace but to prosperity; that stability requires justice within and between states. There are many threats to our way of life -- economic threats, environmental threats, threats arising from underdevelopment and debt -- all of which must be addressed together, through conversation rather than conflict.

ASEAN's achievement has been co-operative security in action. Its willingness to be open with its partners like Canada, to establish a dialogue with them, and to be flexible and functional in the solution of problems is precisely the sort of approach needed for today's world.

A secure and successful Pacific depends on a secure and successful ASEAN. And I believe ASEAN itself can carve an even more central role for itself in the Pacific region. It is for this reason that Canada would support the extension of ASEAN membership

to others in the area as well as the expansion of the circle of dialogue to include new key players. Those, of course, are ASEAN decisions. But Canada believes that a widened circle of dialogue can become a widened circle of influence.

As the Cold War ends in Europe, we must see if it can be put to an end in Asia. There is a new freedom to talk, to compromise, to seek local solutions on local terms. There are encouraging beginnings -- talks between the two Koreas, diplomatic ties between Moscow and Seoul and steps towards peace in Cambodia. That is why Canada has suggested a new security dialogue among the nations of the North Pacific and, as a first step, will be sponsoring meetings of experts and officials from the region in the months ahead. ASEAN too can have an important future in building regional confidence in its part of the Pacific. We must seize this opportunity to build together a structure of peace that promotes prosperity and fosters freedom.

We are entering a new era. An era when co-operation within regions and between regions is more necessary than ever to solve common problems and meet common challenges. Those challenges relate to political stability and conflict resolution in the Pacific. They relate to building prosperity through fairer and more open trade. They relate to development that is sustainable and that helps the recipient become self-reliant and the donor to develop trade. Meeting those challenges will make Alberta and Canada more prosperous and more secure in the future, and we could not find better partners than the countries of ASEAN. Please join me in a toast to the unique and growing friendship among Canada, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

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