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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
TO TRAVEL TO MALAYSIA, THAILAND AND INDONESIA
JULY 9-22

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that he will participate in the annual Post-Ministerial Conference (PMC) of ASEAN Foreign Ministers with their "Dialogue" partners (Australia, Canada, the European Community, Japan, New Zealand and the United States). The ASEAN PMC is being held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, July 11-13. Mr. Clark will also be holding official bilateral talks with Malaysian ministers and officials, following which he will make official visits to Thailand (July 15-18), and Indonesia (July 18-22).

Mr. Clark stressed the political value that Canada attaches to its "Dialogue" relationship with the ASEAN countries. Discussions at this meeting are expected to focus on international economic issues and on recent political and economic developments in the Pacific region. Mr. Clark noted the importance that Canada attaches to the economic progress and stability of ASEAN and the wider Asia/Pacific region and the need to expand commercial links with the area. Discussions in Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia will therefore place emphasis on the importance of increasing two-way trade and commercial co-operation, including possible joint ventures. ASEAN-Canada two-way trade approached \$1.5 billion in 1984.

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ASEAN was established as a regional organization in 1967, comprising Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Brunei joined the organization in 1984. Since 1980 the Secretary of State for External Affairs has regularly attended the annual ASEAN Foreign Ministers PMC held in various ASEAN capitals. ASEAN continues to be a highly successful regional institution and plays a key role in mobilizing international efforts to achieve a Vietnamese withdrawal from Cambodia. ASEAN also actively promotes economic linkages and co-operation within the region.

While in Kuala Lumpur, Mr. Clark will have an opportunity for bilateral discussions with other dialogue partner foreign ministers on a range of important bilateral and multilateral issues.

Mr. Clark will be accompanied by his wife, Maureen McTeer.