



# communiqué

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## VISIT TO CANADA OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS CROWN PRINCE MAHA VAJIRALONGKORN OF THAILAND

The Department of External Affairs is pleased to announce that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn will be visiting Canada from July 21 - 29, 1986 and will be the guest of the Governor General, Her Excellency Jeanne Sauv , while in Ottawa. The Crown Prince will also be the guest of honour at the Thai National Day ceremonies at Expo 86.

While in Vancouver His Royal Highness will attend the premiere of the internationally renowned Royal Thai Ballet at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. The Crown Prince will also visit Victoria, Edmonton, Banff, and Montreal. In accepting the invitation from the Governor General, His Royal Highness expressed his belief that his visit will further strengthen the already strong bonds of friendship and goodwill between the two countries and peoples.

This visit occurs during the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Canada. Ties between Canada and Thailand have expanded considerably since the late 1950's. Two way trade between Canada and Thailand has grown steadily and reached \$236 million in 1985. Thailand recently opened a trade promotion office in Vancouver. It is a country of focus under Canada's National Trade Strategy. Canadian

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development assistance projects amounting to \$125 million are currently underway in Thailand. Canada has steadfastly supported the Thai and ASEAN position on Cambodia and has provided \$32 million through international agencies to assist Cambodian refugees along the Thai-Cambodia border. Over one hundred thousand Indochinese refugees have been resettled in Canada since 1975, more than 30,000 of whom came from camps in Thailand.

A series of high level visits between the two countries are indicative of the expanding relationship. These have included visits by Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulononda in April 1984, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark in 1985. International Trade Minister James Kelleher also visited Thailand in February 1986, while Thai Minister of Industry Chirayu travelled to Canada in April 1986.