

departs with a greater awareness of the continuing problems the country faces and a sense of its weaknesses as well as of its strengths. One leaves with more questions than answers. This is, perhaps, as it should be, for there is much about China that is open-ended, and perhaps even more that the Westerner simply cannot comprehend. China has confronted in a way unknown to any other modern society fundamental

human and social issues. It has met head-on perhaps the most momentous of all contemporary problems — the inherent tensions between revolutionary social change and economic modernization. It may well be tackling the most basic of questions concerning the very nature of man — with what future consequences only the most foolhardy would predict.

The Trudeau visit to China

Showing Canada no carbon copy of U.S., a key goal in Peking

By Claude Turcotte

It is always risky to attempt to anticipate the historians in assessing the real significance of events that have only just happened. Nevertheless, I am tempted to play this dangerous game, and try to imagine what will be the lasting results of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's trip to the People's Republic of China. The fact that Mr. Trudeau was the first head of the Canadian Government to make an official visit to China is, of course, the first thing to be noted, since this, at least, is easily established.

Beyond this, we enter the realm of hypothesis. It may one day be said that the Prime Minister's October 1973 trip to China was a vital move in the development of diplomatic and trade relations between Canada and the Pacific countries. It may also be said that, by its initiative in recognizing the Peking government in 1970, Canada played a useful role in normalizing relations between revolutionary China and the Western countries, and that this trip was a determining factor in the orientation of Sino-Canadian relations. For the time being, however, we must, unfortunately, be content to look at things at closer range, and from this perspective there is no doubt that the trip to China by Canada's Prime Minister was a success.

This is supported by all the official and unofficial statements made during and after the trip, including the comments made by the representatives of all political parties in the House of Commons.

It can be said with equal confidence that the Chinese received the visit with warm and sincere friendship, from Chairman Mao Tse-tung, who had a long talk with Mr. Trudeau, to the peasants who showed their goodwill by appearing along the roads of China to greet this group of visitors from a distant land. The fact still remains, however, that the most lasting ties between China and Canada will be those based on mutual interest.

During the period between 1970 and 1973, Canada and China had enjoyed excellent relations, and it therefore seemed appropriate to analyze these relations more thoroughly and give them more substance. The visits by several ministerial delegations to Peking had already helped

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