

In 1968, Prime Minister Trudeau pledged, if elected, to review Canada's China policy and to initiate discussions with the People's Republic of China on the establishment of diplomatic relations. After his election, he instructed the Department of External Affairs to take the necessary steps to open talks leading to this end. These talks, which began in Stockholm in February 1969, lasted more than 20 months, with the stumbling block being Taiwan. Canada's position was, and is, that the Canadian Government neither endorsed nor challenged the Chinese Government's position on the status of Taiwan.

After much discussion, both sides agreed to a joint communiqué, of October 13, 1970. On the status of Taiwan it said simply: "The Chinese Government reaffirms that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China. The Canadian Government takes note of this position of the Chinese Government." This formula, or one something like it, has been used since 1970 by many of the countries which have followed Canada in establishing relations with Peking.

On April 13, 1971, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced the appointment of Mr. Ralph Edgar Collins as first Ambassador of Canada to the People's Republic of China. Mr. Collins, at that time an Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, had been born in Kunming in China, and had served with External Affairs in Chungking from 1943 to 1945.

Mr. Sharp also announced that the Canadian Government had given agrément to the appointment of Mr. Huang Hua as first Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Canada. Mr. Huang, a distinguished career diplomat, had served as Director of the Department of West European