

## PART B

### Chapter 5: ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

#### North Asia, North Pacific

Canada's relations with Japan were highlighted in 1980 by the visit of former Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira and Foreign Minister Saburo Okita to Ottawa and Vancouver in May. During the visit, they had the opportunity to discuss with their Canadian counterparts and other federal ministers the full range of bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest, and to stimulate and guide further progress in the Canada-Japan relationship.

On the occasion of the untimely death on June 12 of Prime Minister Ohira, Governor-General Edward Schreyer led a delegation to the funeral in Tokyo. This was the first visit of a Canadian governor general to Japan.

The development of political discussion and consultation between Canada and Japan was given new impetus by the decision during Mr. Ohira's visit to inaugurate annual meetings between foreign ministers for exchanges on issues of mutual interest. Throughout the year, Canadian and Japanese ministers and officials further developed the habit of bilateral contact through discussions in multilateral forums such as the United Nations, the OECD, the IEA, and at the Venice Summit.

Parliamentary relations between the two countries were enhanced by the decision of Canadian parliamentarians to establish a Canada-Japan Friendship Association, a counterpart to the Japan-Canada Parliamentary League. In August, the Speaker of the Lower House of the Diet (Japan's parliament) visited Canada with a delegation of House leaders from the various parties in the Diet.

The expansion of our economic and commercial links continued in 1980. Japan remained Canada's second largest trading partner, with Canadian exports totalling \$4.37 billion and imports from Japan reaching \$2.79 billion while two-way trade increased 13.12 per cent. Japanese investment did not grow appreciably, although prospects brightened for future arrangements in the energy, petrochemicals and manufacturing sectors and there was livelier interest generally on both sides in greater diversification and interdependence.

The economic and trade relationship was reviewed in depth at the annual meeting of the Joint Economic Committee (JEC), which met in Canada, and the Canada-Japan Business Co-operation Committee which convened its meeting in Kyoto. These two committees, the first composed of government officials and the second made up of senior businessmen, continue to play very significant roles in identifying possible new directions and resolving existing difficulties. The JEC

meeting agreed on the establishment of an intergovernmental working group on resource processing and confirmed the usefulness of a new informal consultative mechanism for treating agricultural trade issues.

An important developing aspect of bilateral ties has been the science and technology relationship, which was reviewed at the fourth consultations in Tokyo in June 1980. Specific areas of new and ongoing co-operation were identified. Among the most active were coal conversion, paving in cold climates and integrated agricultural pest management, as well as expanding exchanges of scientists and of information.

The substantial interest of Canadian provincial governments in relations with Japan was symbolized in 1980 by the twinning of the province of Alberta and the prefecture of Hokkaido. The department welcomed and encouraged intensive federal-provincial consultations on Canada-Japan relations, and the embassy in Tokyo gave assistance to ministerial visits from British Columbia, Alberta and New Brunswick.

The Department of External Affairs continued its efforts to promote, sponsor and assist projects for Canadian cultural exchanges with Japan. During 1980, the Canadian Brass Ensemble made a successful tour and Evelyn Hart and David Peregrine of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet won honours at the prestigious Japan World Ballet Concours held in Osaka. An exhibition of prints by ten Canadian artists was organized and began to tour various cities in Japan.

The promotion of Canadian studies at Japanese universities continued to have a high priority within the department's public affairs program in Japan, and Professor John Saywell of York University filled the position of visiting professor of Canadian studies in Japan for a second year. The department continued its program of scholarships for students and began a formal program of faculty enrichment which sponsored visits to Canada by Japanese academics interested in studying Canadian history, politics, and society.

Canada and China celebrated the tenth anniversary of diplomatic relations in October 1980. Events during the year illustrated the extent to which relations have developed over the past decade. Three ministerial visits took place during the year. In August, Vice-Premier Bo Yibo visited Canada and held talks with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and with the Minister of State for International Trade. In September, the Minister of Agriculture visited China and signed a memorandum of understanding on agriculture. During the same month, the Minister of State for International