

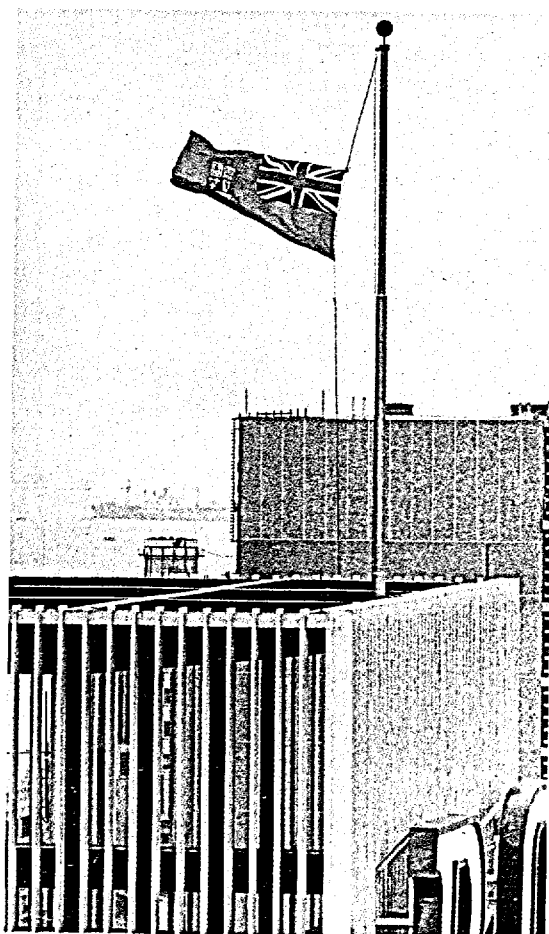
sent from Peking to deal specifically with him. Mealtimes were always interrupted with demonstrations, and loudspeakers blared revolutionary songs and slogans throughout the day. Before any serious negotiations were conducted, the obligatory reading of the "Thoughts of Chairman Mao" had to be conducted. The capitalists endured the humiliations stoically, and through it all, Canadian products were somehow sold.

Another Trade Officer who served in Hong Kong and ventured into the PRC toward the end of the Cultural Revolution was Jon Swanson, now Director of Trade Development Policy in Ottawa. He recalls the train trips into China with wonder and amusement. Several times the foreigners had to publicly confess to the Red Guards major "transgressions" such as dropping blankets on the hotel floor, or forgetting their visitor's ribbons at the Canton Fair.

Swanson's most memorable experience was of the 1969 Fair – where there were 23

Canadian companies – all kept at the venerable Tung Fang Hotel. He had planned to go to Canton by the famous "Gin Express", and phoned the beleaguered Canadians to see if he could bring anything they might need.

The response was immediate and definite – "Bring Scotch and cheese!" Dutifully, Swanson managed to purchase 10 pounds of assorted cheeses – taking care in choosing stilton, camembert, cheddar, emmental and others. The Scotch whisky was a bigger problem because PRC Customs regulations stipulated that only one bottle of spirits per person was allowed. Through contacts, the ingenious Trade Officer managed to purchase a giant bottle of Scotch – about 350 ounces – a monster jug that had been created for display purposes. He packed the assorted cheeses and Scotch into a large suitcase and arrived at the border. Customs officials could not help notice the Scotch, but on consulting the regulations, all agreed that "one bottle was one bottle". Swanson



The Red Ensign flying over the Trade Commission at the old P.&O. Building, 1965