

Establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and Viet-Nam

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, announced on July 30 that Canada and the Republic of Viet-Nam would establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. In releasing a communique issued in Saigon and Ottawa Mr. Sharp recalled that Canada recognized the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam as the sole legal government south of the Seventeenth Parallel. The text of the communique follows:

"With a view to further strengthening the friendly relations between the two nations and to promoting co-operation in various fields, the Governments of Canada and of the Republic of Viet-Nam have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level between the two countries, on the basis of the Vienna Convention of April 18, 1961 on diplomatic relations.

"The Governments of Canada and of the Republic of Viet-Nam shall proceed without delay to the exchange of ambassadors between the two countries."

Report of medical delegation to China

The report of the Canadian Medical Association delegation that visited the People's Republic of China in April, which calls for additional efforts to further improve relations between the health workers of Canada and the People's Republic of China as a means of improving health care has been officially received by Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde.

"It is an excellent, extremely interesting report, indicating that both China and Canada could benefit from such an exchange of knowledge and personnel. I was pleased to learn that China's Minister of Health, Dr. Shieh Hua and Dr. Kuo Mo-Jo, the President of China's Academy of Medical Sciences, have expressed an interest in such exchanges. We will give the report, and its recommendations, very close study," Mr. Lalonde stated.

Acupuncture stressed

While the report indicates that there are several areas of medicine in China

worthy of study, including newly-developed surgical techniques to reconnect amputated limbs, it stresses acupuncture and herbal medicines developed in traditional Chinese medicine. Mr. Lalonde noted that neither the delegation, in its report, nor Chinese medical authorities see acupuncture as a cure for all ills.

"It is important that these matters be studied closely and proven effective, in the Canadian setting, before they can be appropriately introduced to health care delivery in this country," the Health Minister stressed. "It would appear that acupuncture may be useful in some areas. The task will be for all concerned to introduce what is good as quickly as possible and ensure that quackery — inappropriate use by medical or non-medical people — is not permitted. This and other aspects of the report will be of considerable interest to provincial health authorities."

The 16-member delegation that visited China was organized by the Canadian Medical Association and led by its past president, Dr. Gustave Gingras of Montreal. The delegation included Dr. J.M. LeClair, Deputy Minister of National Health, Mr. J.L. Fry, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Programs Branch of the Department of National Health and Welfare, Dr. Yves Morin, Vice President of the Medical Research Council, and medical practitioners of various disciplines from across Canada.

The delegation also recommended an exchange of physicians and scientists to allow Chinese doctors to study cancer-control, heart disease and other Canadian medical programs. Canadians will study acupuncture analgesia, the use of acupuncture in surgical operations and to relieve pain, acupuncture in the treatment of several disorders, traditional Chinese herbal medicines, surgical techniques used to re-implant amputated limbs, special surgical techniques and hospital facilities for the care of severely burned patients, China's extremely decentralized health-care delivery system, its system of choosing medical students and its medical-education programs.

The delegation recommended that the methods used to develop personal and total population involvement in promoting better personal health habits and highly effective mass health campaigns

should be studied. The report indicated that in recent years China had eliminated flies, bed bugs, rats and several diseases including venereal disease and drug abuse.

Continuation of two-way preferential tariffs with New Zealand

The continuation of preferential tariff treatment between Canada and New Zealand, which was agreed to by an exchange of letters between the two countries on July 26 was most welcome, Alastair Gillespie, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, said recently.

It was the intention of both Canada and New Zealand, stated Mr. Gillespie, to maintain to the greatest extent possible, the preferential access each now enjoys in the other's market. These preferences have contributed to the growth of trade between the two countries and the new exchange of letters provides that these preferences would, by and large, remain in force.

Mr. Gillespie noted that this exchange of letters would serve to reassure the Canadian business community, particularly companies now exporting to New Zealand, that the preferential trading relation would be maintained. He urged Canadian exporters not already exporting to New Zealand, to examine the opportunities open to them in this market.

The exchange, he said, was evidence that Canada was vitally interested in expanding its trade with the nations of the Pacific area and provides for a continuation of the mutually profitable trade relations that Canada has enjoyed with New Zealand.

In recent years, two-way trade between the two countries has totalled between \$70 and \$80 million a year, with exports and imports roughly in balance. Mr. Gillespie pointed out that of total Canadian exports of \$38.2 million in 1972, some \$32.5 million or 85 per cent, were fabricated materials and end products. These included items such as synthetic rubber, engines, turbines and parts, and pulp and paper industry machinery. Other important Canadian export items include canned salmon, sulphur, asbestos and specialized textiles. In return Canada imported substantial amounts of beef, lamb and wool from New Zealand.