

Pacific

Australia and New Zealand

Historically there has been a close and easy relationship between Canada and Australia and New Zealand based on similar cultural, economic, political and social institutions, Commonwealth ties, and trade links. In recent years this friendship has intensified, resulting in ever-expanding people-to-people contact through visits and exchanges.

In August 1973, the newly-elected Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand, the Honourable Gough Whitlam and the Right Honourable Norman Kirk, visited Ottawa to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. The Minister of National Defence, the Honourable James Richardson, visited both Australia and New Zealand for talks on a wide range of military subjects.

As an indication of the valuable economic and commercial relations that exist between these countries, separate bilateral trade agreements were concluded between Canada and New Zealand in August and between Canada and Australia in October. These were designed to retain the system of Commonwealth preferences, which provide for continuing mutually-advantageous terms of trade. Trade increased greatly in 1973 over previous years; trade between Canada and Australia increased by \$93 million in 1973, to a total of \$440 million, and trade between Canada and New Zealand increased from \$81 million to a total of \$112 million in 1973. In the field of transportation, air-routes between Canada and Australia were amended in 1973.

Other countries

Canadian involvement with the other countries of the Pacific area has customarily been concerned mainly with aid, but in recent times trade, investment and immigration have been increasing. While Indonesia is a major recipient of Canadian aid, exports from Canada to that country have been expanding. There have also been gains in two-way trade with Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, and an increase in Canadian imports from the Philippines. Trade with South Korea reached an all-time high in 1973.

As an indication of Canada's traditional Commonwealth ties with the region, the prime ministers of five Pacific countries — Malaysia, Singapore, Tonga, Fiji and Western Samoa — visited Ottawa in August 1973 to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Canada continued during 1973 to carry out its policy of sharing in, and contributing to, the economic growth of the region and of helping bring about the conditions for the enhancement of social justice and improvement in the quality of life.