

Far Eastern Division

This Division has an area of responsibility which comprises East and Southeast Asia, from Japan to Burma, with the exception of the Commonwealth countries of Malaysia and Singapore. Within this area, Canada has resident ambassadors in Japan, Indonesia and Thailand, a consul-general in the Philippines and trade and immigration offices in Hong Kong. It has non-resident diplomatic accreditation to the Republic of Korea from Tokyo and to Burma from Kuala Lumpur. During 1968 it has also maintained delegations to the International Commissions for Supervision and Control in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, though towards the end of the year it was announced that most Canadian personnel would be withdrawn from the first two countries.

In a speech in Tokyo on April 15 on the occasion of the Japan-Canada Ministerial Meeting, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honorable Mitchell Sharp, had the following to say, *inter alia*, about Canada and the Pacific:

"Over the past 30 years developments in Asia have also brought home to Canadians as never before the realization that Canada is involved despite our apparent geographical remoteness....this has led to a fresh recognition of the obvious fact that Canada is a Pacific as well as an Atlantic nation, and to a reassertion of this fact as a firm principle of our foreign policy....it will /therefore/ be incumbent upon our Government to take deliberate steps to guide and quicken our relations with the countries of the Pacific."

China

On February 10, 1969, the Secretary of State for External Affairs made a statement in the House of Commons with respect to recognition and the establishment of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, which read in part as follows:

"Our Embassy in Stockholm has been instructed to get in touch with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in order to convey the Canadian proposal that talks concerning relations between the two countries be held at a mutually convenient time and place in the near future...."

"We also hope to be able to take this opportunity to explore with Chinese officials the whole range of Sino-Canadian relations, and to discuss the possibilities for expanding and developing our relations in a number of areas...."

"There will be a number of questions for our officials to discuss with the Chinese. It is not only a question of working out a satisfactory basis for recognition and the exchange of embassies, but of reaching agreement on a number of details relating to the operations of a Canadian embassy in Peking and a Chinese embassy in Ottawa...."