

As Canada continues its policy of diversification, the importance to it of the Pacific region continues to grow. For example, Canada's relations with Australia are becoming increasingly vital, since Australia is not only a regional power in the Pacific as a whole but is a primary power in the South Pacific. Both governments share the same concern for political and economic stability in the region. The joint pursuit of this object is demonstrated by the support both Australia and Canada give to ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) as a model for regional co-operation.

The busy two-way official-visits program was maintained as Australians continued to assess Canadian experience in such areas as political party institutions, federal-provincial relations, internal government organization and energy plans, while Canadians considered Australian policies related to the office of the *ombudsman*, the question of native rights and mineral-resource development. Close consultations were held on law-of-the-sea issues and nuclear safeguards, particularly under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. There were also consultations between the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Secretary-designate of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs, N. Parkinson, who visited Ottawa in November. The twelve month also saw the third in the series of bilateral troop-exchange programs under which 150 Australian soldiers trained for six weeks in Canada and a similar number of Canadians trained for the same period in Australia. Finally, as 1976 closed, there was yet another indication of thriving relations: under a program to measure cosmic X-rays of very low energy emanating from outer space, a Canadian *Brant B* rocket was launched in Australia for research purposes.

New Zealand

On the New Zealand side, 1976 was a particularly important period for Canadian and New Zealand relations. In addition to the usual visits by high-level officials of both countries, the then Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan MacEachen, paid a visit to

New Zealand from August 29 to September 1, 1976, the first official visit by a Canadian holding that office. Mr. MacEachen's visit was made in the context of Canada's diversification policy in the Pacific, and demonstrated the Canadian desire to extend further the already close relations shared by the two governments. Relations between the two countries have a relatively long history. A Canadian Government trade office was opened in Auckland in 1919, a bilateral trade agreement was signed in 1932 and Canada established a high commission in Auckland in 1940. As New Zealand plays a leading role in the South Pacific, it has an important part in the expansion of Canada's Pacific links.

The comprehensive nature of Canadian/New Zealand relations led to the establishment of a Bilateral Consultative Committee, which meets biennially and allows senior officials from both countries to concentrate on bilateral and multilateral concerns. The next meeting will be in Wellington in 1977.

Korea

Canadian interest in the Republic of Korea (ROK) has kept pace with the recent remarkable economic development of that country. In the past, Canada's chief interest in Korea lay in the importance of its stability to the security of the Pacific region generally. In recent years, however, Canada's rapidly-growing trade with Korea and the important flow of immigrants from the ROK to Canada has significantly extended the scope and depth of their bilateral association. One striking indication of this development was the sale to Korea, in January 1976, of a CANDU power reactor, accompanied by negotiation of a rigorous safeguards agreement covering the reactor and its fuels. Canada has also continued to promote in international forums proposals for reducing the tension on the peninsula, at the same time ensuring that the right of the ROK to play a principal part in the determination of its own future is not undermined.