

Zimbabwe completed its first year as an independent nation; Canada pledged \$50 million towards development there and concluded a large locomotive sale. Canada also supported Uganda's recovery by approving grants to governmental groups and international humanitarian assistance organizations active in Uganda.

The Prime Minister also visited Senegal, Algeria and Morocco to discuss North-South questions and develop bilateral ties. Minister De Bané visited the Ivory Coast, Niger, Mali, Upper Volta, Guinea, Gabon, Zaire, Burundi and Ruanda. He also headed a Canadian delegation to the Libreville conference of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation which included a delegation from Quebec, led by its Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, and from New Brunswick, led by the Minister of Youth, Leisure and Cultural Resources.

There were meetings of Canada's bilateral commissions with Senegal, Gabon, the Ivory Coast and Zaire.

Asia and the Pacific

During 1981 there was further expansion in the already existing high trade levels between Canada and the Asia and Pacific region. South and Southeast Asia continued to be the largest recipients of Canadian bilateral development assistance.

A number of senior exchange visits emphasized increased concentration of Canadian attention on the region. The Prime Minister paid an official visit to the Republic of Korea on his way to the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Australia and to Fiji on his return. For the second year, the Secretary of State for External Affairs met foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the Philippines in June. This was followed in September by a further advance in Canada's relations with ASEAN when its five foreign ministers and External Affairs Minister MacGuigan signed an agreement on economic co-operation.

Cabinet ministers visited China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and India. The Prime Minister of Australia, the Prime Minister of Japan and the Vice President of India came to Canada. Canada and New Zealand signed a new agreement replacing the existing Preferential trade agreement, when New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister were in Canada.

SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE TO CANADIANS ABROAD

Although there was a decline in the number of Canadians travelling overseas in 1981, the total number of consular services provided by posts continued to grow, except those to Canadians in distress, which remained the same as in 1980. Plans were devised for assisting Canadians caught in emergency situations, particularly in regions of civil or political instability. An extensive review of the whole consular program sought to identify areas where consular services would be made more effective.