

Canada/Japan Ministerial Committee meeting

The following excerpts are from a joint communiqué issued after the seventh meeting of the Canada/Japan Ministerial Committee in Tokyo, June 24:

Japan was represented by the Honourable Kiichi Miyazawa (Chairman of the Meeting), Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Takeo Fukuda, Minister of State and Director-General for Economic Planning (Deputy Prime Minister), the Honourable Masayoshi Ohira, Minister of Finance, the Honourable Shintaro Abe, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, the Honourable Toshio Kohmoto, Minister of International Trade and Industry, and Mr. Yasuhiko Nara, Ambassador to Canada. Canada was represented by the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Jean Chrétien, President of the Treasury Board, the Honourable Donald S. Macdonald, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Honourable Alastair W. Gillespie, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Honourable Eugene F. Whelan, Minister of Agriculture, and Mr. Ross Campbell, Ambassador to Japan.

Expressing their pleasure at the steady development of the close and fruitful relationship between the two countries since the sixth meeting of the Canada/Japan Ministerial Committee and, especially, the important impetus provided by the meeting between the Prime Ministers of the two countries in September 1974 for placing the relationship on an ever broader and deeper basis, the Ministers exchanged views on matters of common concern to the two countries in the spirit of friendship and understanding.

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The Ministers reaffirmed that it was extremely important to promote mutually beneficial economic relations between the two countries for the second progress of their respective economies. They recalled that, during their talks in Ottawa in September 1974, Prime Minister Tanaka and Prime Minister Trudeau, noting the existence of an extensive and mutually rewarding economic relationship, discussed the question of further economic co-operation between the two countries. They agreed that, in the changing world economic situation, there was signifi-

cant potential for further deepening and broadening of the relations between the two countries. They therefore agreed that officials of the two countries should proceed as soon as possible to identify those areas of the Japanese and Canadian economies which held the greatest promise for increased and mutually beneficial economic co-operation. They agreed that the explorations would cover the manufacturing as well as the whole range of resource areas, and include such matters as expanded mutually beneficial investment, broader inter- corporate links including joint ventures, scientific and technological exchanges, and conditions giving greater assurance of supply and of access to markets.

Trade agreement

The Ministers expressed satisfaction that government officials of the two countries had been exploring revision of the agreement on commerce between Japan and Canada in the light of the results achieved in the Canada/Japan Prime Ministerial talks of last September. They agreed that officials should proceed with this work, which could lead to a broader and more comprehensive agreement providing a firmer contractual foundation for the progress of economic relations between the two countries.

The Ministers, noting with satisfaction the rapid increase in trade between the two countries, reaffirmed their determination to promote freer trade and discourage protectionist moves and also their aim of expanding the scope of their trade relations including resource, processed and manufactured exports.

The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of mineral and energy resources and agricultural and forestry products in their respective economies. They noted that the exchange of opinions in the Canada/Japan Sub-Committee on resources and energy matters held in Tokyo on June 9 and 10 had been extremely useful and agreed to work for further enhancement of the relations between the two countries in these

fields on a stable and mutually beneficial basis. They emphasized the importance of their trade in agricultural and food commodities taking place in a mutually satisfactory manner and agreed that the consultative meetings on food and agricultural matters among government officials should be continued and that the next such meeting should be held at an early date.

Noting that the increased exchange of capital between the two countries could make the economic relations between the two countries closer and more advanced, the Ministers agreed that the policies on foreign investment of the two countries should be conducted in such a manner as to facilitate that aim.

Science and technology

The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with recent evidence of the expanding co-operation in the field of science and technology and with the meeting of the government officials held in Tokyo from May 19 through 22 which further promoted co-operative relations. They noted with satisfaction that several projects of scientific and technological co-operation were already under way and that prospects for additional projects were bright.

The Ministers referred to the current situation in regard to civil aviation and noted the need to further the development of air relations between the two countries to their mutual benefit.

Culture

Noting the contribution made by the increasing contacts and exchanges at all levels between the two peoples in recent years to the enhancement and diversification of the ties between the two countries, the Ministers concurred in the view that the broadening of knowledge and understanding between the two countries, *inter alia*, through cultural exchanges is of fundamental importance and should be encouraged in every possible way. In this connection, they noted the progress of the negotiations to conclude a cultural agreement between the two countries now under way on the basis of the joint *communiqué* between the Prime Ministers of the two countries in September 1974 and hoped for its early conclusion.

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