

cial relations and to encourage co-operation between the two countries in a number of areas, including industry and resource development. Its objectives and consultative arrangements will provide opportunities for the business communities of both countries to expand their contacts through joint ventures and exchanges, and it establishes a forum in which that momentum can be maintained by the discussion of economic and commercial issues of mutual interest.

Economic co-operation between the two countries continued to grow throughout the year. Numerous Japanese government-industry missions visited Canada to study Canadian potential in a variety of areas — including the manufacture of aircraft and auto parts, housing, and coal and uranium mining. In November, a group of senior Japanese businessmen visited Canada to investigate trade and investment opportunities. Canada sent several missions to Japan to discuss pulp and paper, STOL (short-takeoff-and-landing) aircraft and agricultural products. Several provincial missions also visited Japan, including one led by Premier Blakeney of Saskatchewan. A Canadian Businessmen's Association now exists in Japan. Canada was host in August to the Annual Consultations on Agriculture, which are of special significance since Japan is Canada's largest market for agricultural products. In addition, Canadian and Japanese organizations are co-operating in the study of the CANDU reactor's potential use in Japan.

In March, in recognition of the parliamentary traditions of the two countries, the Japan-Canada Parliamentarians' League, consisting of 150 members of the Japanese Diet from all political parties, was established. A delegation of Canadian Parliamentarians, led jointly by Speakers James Jerome of the House of Commons and Renaude Lapointe of the Senate, paid a visit to Japan. Kenzo Kono, Speaker of the House of Councillors, the senior Japanese chamber, paid a private visit to Canada in July. During his visit to Japan, Prime Minister Trudeau met the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Maeo. A

number of other visits by parliamentarians of both countries occurred during the year.

Regular formal consultations continued during the year between the two countries. The annual policy-planning talks took place in May in Tokyo. These talks, which were attended by senior officials from both sides, dealt with a number of multilateral issues of mutual interest. The third annual Japan-Canada consultations on United Nations questions were held in New York. The United Nations was also the scene of a meeting between the Secretary of State for External Affairs and his Japanese counterpart, Mr. Kosaka, and provided an opportunity for a review of bilateral and multilateral issues. The economic summit meeting in Puerto Rico in June also provided an opportunity for Prime Minister Trudeau to exchange views with Prime Minister Miki on multilateral economic issues. There was close co-operation, too, at meetings of the International Monetary Fund, the Conference on International Economic Co-operation and numerous other international organizations at which both Canada and Japan were represented.

The establishment of a Canadian studies program in Japan and the signing of the Cultural Agreement, together with increasing tourism between the two countries, have also provided an important means of improving mutual understanding.

Australia

The year 1976 saw the steady growth of Australian-Canadian relations, which are already firmly based on similar cultural, historical, political and economic foundations. Mr. MacEachen, as Secretary of State for External Affairs, paid an official visit to Australia from September 1 to 5. He exchanged views with Prime Minister Fraser and Mr. Anthony Peacock, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the North-South dialogue, security issues in Southeast Asia and various challenges facing industrial countries with liberal-democratic institutions. In addition, Prime Minister Fraser visited the Olympics and met informally with Prime Minister Trudeau in Montreal.