

# PRESS RELEASE



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## CHINA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, made the following statement today in the House of Commons.

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. I hope that before long we shall have a reply from the Chinese Government and that representatives of our two countries can then begin to discuss the question of recognition of the People's Republic of China and the exchange of embassies between Ottawa and Peking.

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. Even without diplomatic relations, we have been able to develop our trade, exchange correspondents between Ottawa and Peking, and increase contacts between Canada and China in a number of fields in recent years.

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. Since these questions are to be the subject of discussion, I do not think it would be appropriate to say any more about them now.