

At the invitation of His Excellency, Kim Dong Jo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, made an official visit to the Republic of Korea on June 26-27.

During his visit to Seoul the Canadian minister held discussions with Foreign Minister Kim in a frank and friendly atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Mr. MacEachen also had interviews with His Excellency, Park Chung Hee, President of the Republic of Korea, and His Excellency, Prime Minister Kim Jong Pil.

The Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs noted that this was the first visit of a Canadian foreign minister to Korea and expressed his deep gratitude to the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the friendly and hospitable treatment extended him.

The two foreign ministers had a very useful exchange of views on the world situation and reviewed the state of relations between Canada and the Republic of Korea.

In the course of the discussions, the ministers placed particular emphasis on the situation in the Korean peninsula and agreed on the urgent need for international co-operation to enhance continued peace and security in this area.

The ministers went on to discuss the Korean question in the United Nations and Mr. MacEachen renewed his assurances of Canadian support for the position of the Republic of Korea and its efforts to work towards peaceful reunification on the basis of the freely expressed will of the Korean people.

The two foreign ministers expressed mutual satisfaction at the remarkable growth of bilateral co-operation between Canada and the Republic of Korea in all fields, particularly in trade and investment in the past few years.

The ministers agreed that this trend should be encouraged and that further efforts should be made to broaden the scope of relations between the two countries.

The two foreign ministers also reviewed the current state of negotiations for the acquisition by the Republic of Korea of a Canadian nuclear power reactor. Mr. MacEachen noted that Canada was committed to co-operate in the sharing of the benefits of nuclear energy under the most effective safeguards. The two ministers looked forward to the early conclusion of a bilateral safeguards agreement between Canada and the Republic of Korea which would incorporate the safeguards required by Canadian policy to ensure that any assistance provided would be used solely for peaceful, non-explosive purposes.