

work of the ICCS. During visits to Saigon, Vientiane and Hanoi, he discussed bilateral relations with the leaders of the three countries.

On July 31, Canada established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Viet-Nam; in September diplomatic relations were also established with the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam.

In Laos, in February, the Laotian parties agreed to a cease-fire and also agreed to undertake supervision of the peace agreement themselves. In September, after seven months of continuous negotiations marked only by a few violations of the cease-fire, both parties signed a protocol specifying the terms and conditions of the general agreement and providing for the participation of the International Commission for Supervision and Control (ICSC) in Laos. Canada is a member of this Commission, which was established under the Geneva Accords of 1962. After the protocol was signed, Canada preferred to reserve its position on this question until the ICSC received an official invitation to supervise the ceasefire agreement, which Canada already suspected was quite different from the one it had been asked to supervise by virtue of the 1962 accords. By the end of 1973, no such invitation had been received.

Through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) continued emphasis was placed upon emergency and humanitarian relief needs, particularly in the medical (reha-

bilitation and public health) and social sectors. In the past few years, Canada has given \$2 million, through the Mekong Committee, to assist in the first stage of the Nam Ngum hydro-electric project in Laos, and it has offered to contribute a further \$2.5 million towards the second stage of the work. Canada has also contributed \$2 million toward the Prek Thnot hydro-electric project in Cambodia. Canada has stated its intention to play its full part, when peace comes to Indochina, in special programs of rehabilitation aid necessitated by the prolonged hostilities.

South Asia

The major focus of Canada's relations with South Asia in 1973 was India, and concomitantly the gradual changes taking place among the countries of the region after the upheaval of 1971 and the emergence of Bangladesh on the international stage.

Canada's long-standing and friendly relations with India were advanced by the successful visit to Canada of the Prime Minister of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, at the invitation of Prime Minister Trudeau. Her visit provided an opportunity to initiate a broad review of relations between the two countries. After more than two decades, these relations had evolved from close co-operation in various international endeavours to a connection founded primarily upon the provision of development assistance by Canada. The time appeared to be approaching when a more mature economic relationship could be envisaged as India advanced towards its goal of self-reliance.

Recognizing the desirability of a gradual transformation and broadening of the relationship in the economic, cultural, scientific and technical spheres, the two Prime Ministers agreed that senior officials of the two governments should meet for detailed discussions. Accordingly, economic consultations were held in New Delhi in November during which a broad range of practical matters were discussed.