
Australia and New Zealand

In the last few years there has been a marked expansion in Canada's traditionally close and friendly ties with both Australia and New Zealand. A noteworthy trend is that Canada's relations with these countries are being based more on pragmatic co-operation in the achievement of mutually desirable objectives reflecting individual national interests than on historical ties. Canada and Australia, for instance, share problems caused by widely dispersed populations, vast natural resources, divisions of responsibility between federal and provincial or state governments, and similarities in approach to foreign affairs. The two countries also share markets for the sale of a considerable range of natural resources and four of each country's respective major sales efforts are directed at the same consumers—the United States, Japan, the EEC and China.

1974 was thus a year in which governments displayed more interest than ever before in studying and learning from innovations in one another's programs for social and economic advancement at home and for foreign policy implementation abroad. Among subjects of special interest were such nationally sensitive issues as resource development, controls on foreign investment, the affairs of native peoples, marketing of agricultural produce, and improvements in techniques of government. Contacts expanded in all these areas—evidence for which was the increase in exchanges of personnel and data between counterpart government departments and agencies and the growing number of official visits. Major examples of the latter were the visits in both directions across the Pacific of a variety of Canadian, Australian and New Zealand ministers, including the visit to Wellington in February 1974 of Canada's Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, D. C. Jamieson, to attend the second session of the Canada-New Zealand Consultative Committee and the visit to Ottawa in

October 1974 of the Australian Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam.

Other countries

Canadian involvement with countries other than Japan, Australia and New Zealand in the Pacific area has customarily been concerned mainly with development assistance, but in recent times trade and investment have been increasing. Our relations with Indonesia are now moving into a more mature phase in the economic, commercial and political fields. There have been increases in two-way trade with Malaysia and Singapore, as well as a general expansion of trade with the Philippines.

In 1974 a landmark was reached in Canada's relations with the Republic of Korea in the arrival in Seoul of Canada's first resident ambassador. The decision to establish an embassy was made in recognition of developments in the politico-security situation on the Korean Peninsula and the marked increase in Canada-R.O.K. trade.

Canada's traditional Commonwealth ties are reflected in this area in that seven countries in the Pacific region—Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore, Tonga, Fiji and Western Samoa—are Commonwealth members.

Canada continued during 1974 to carry out its policy of contributing to the economic growth of the region and of helping bring about the conditions for enhancement of social justice and improvement in the quality of life.