

periodic consultations on trade matters. In the course of the visit, China's then Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr. Pai Hsiang-kuo, accepted an invitation from Mr. Pépin to visit Canada. Mr. Pai visited Canada in August 1972, and opened the Chinese display at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto.

In August 1972, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, made an official visit to China. He had extensive talks with the Chinese Foreign Minister and had a meeting with the late Premier, Chou En-lai. Mr. Sharp opened the Canadian Solo Fair in Peking, the largest commercial fair ever held by Canada abroad. It was a very successful exhibition of Canada's technological capabilities and marketing potential in a wide variety of fields.

Subsequent visits have been made by other Canadian Ministers: a Petroleum Mission led by the Honourable Donald Macdonald, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, in April 1973 and a Scientific Mission led by the Honourable Jeanne Sauvé, Minister of State for Science and Technology, in September 1973. The pattern of official Canadian visits to China culminated in a highly productive mission to the People's Republic by Prime Minister Trudeau in October 1973.

The Prime Minister's Visit to China

The Prime Minister's visit was highlighted by his friendly and wide-ranging discussions with Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the late Premier Chou En-lai. In more concrete terms, important bilateral agreements or understandings were reached in areas such as trade, consular affairs, visas, an expansion of exchange programmes, and reunification of families. The first Chinese emigrants under the reunification of families agreement reached Canada in August 1974.

The trade agreement provided for the formal exchange of Most Favoured Nation treatment and the establishment of a Joint Trade Committee which has met annually since December 1973. The Chinese also agreed to consider Canada as a source of supply for plant technology and sophisticated