

The India-Canada talks held in Ottawa from July 29 to 31 were both a continuation of the bilateral consultations that were held in New Delhi in November, 1973, and an outcome of the invitation of the Prime Minister of Canada to the Prime Minister of India.

The Indian Delegation was led by Mr. Kewal Singh, Foreign Secretary (Deputy Minister), Ministry of External Affairs and assisted by Mr. U. Bajpai, High Commissioner for India in Ottawa. In addition to having discussions with Mr. A. E. Ritchie, Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Mr. Paul Gérin-Lajoie, President of CIDA, Mr. Kewal Singh had meetings with Prime Minister Trudeau, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mitchell Sharp and Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce Alastair Gillespie.

While there was useful discussion of India's economic development priorities and their response to the formidable problems created by the world-wide rise in prices of energy, fertilizer and food, the discussions centred mainly on nuclear co-operation arrangements and the different attitude of the two governments towards the use of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes.

The problem during the meetings was to explore the differences in an effort to reach agreement on which future co-operation could be based. Some of the points which had to be considered were of a nature which would not lend themselves to ready resolution and the first series of meetings should, therefore, be regarded as exploratory