

Canada-Pakistani ties reinforced by visit of President Zia

The expanding relationship between Canada and Pakistan was symbolized by the state visit of President and Begum Zia ul Haq to Canada from December 14 to 18. The occasion provided the opportunity for discussions between the President and Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau on several subjects of international concern as well as certain bilateral issues. The talks were described as productive, friendly and straightforward, in the long-standing tradition of Canada-Pakistan discussions.

Canada praised Pakistan's role in leading international opposition to the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and particular admiration was expressed for Pakistan's effective humanitarian assistance and shelter to almost three million Afghan refugees.

A valuable exchange of views took place on issues ranging from the North-South dialogue to the improving prospects for better relations between India and Pakistan. Pakistan expressed appreciation for past Canadian support of its efforts to rejoin the Commonwealth and reiterated its continuing interest in so doing, provided re-entry could be achieved on "honourable terms".

No nuclear weapons assurance

Prime Minister Trudeau and President Zia also discussed Pakistan's internal situation. During an extensive discussion on nuclear non-proliferation issues, President Zia assured Prime Minister Trudeau that Pakistan had no intention of developing a nuclear weapons capacity.

Bilateral issues, including the Canadian development assistance program and commercial relations, were also reviewed. The Canadian side noted Pakistan's recent impressive economic performance, with a growth rate of 5 to 6 per cent *per annum*, and stressed Canada's continued major commitment (\$45 million *per annum*) to Pakistan's development program.

Appreciation was expressed over the successful outcome of recent discussions between Canadian and Pakistani officials whereby Canada agreed to support efforts by the Pakistan government to direct additional resources to the agricultural and social sectors. During the President's visit it was also announced that the Canadian International Development Agency would provide assistance to the Canada-Pakistan Trade and Economic Council's activities related to identifying new areas of industrial co-operation. Following the



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During his visit to Ottawa in December, President Zia of Pakistan (left) met with Prime Minister Trudeau.

morning discussions between the two leaders, the second round of Canada-Pakistan Senior Officials' Consultations took place in the afternoon of December 17.

The visit began with a two-day stay in Montreal, where the President was welcomed to Canada by Minister of State for External Relations Charles Lapointe. While in Montreal, Mr. Zia was guest at a luncheon given by Quebec foreign trade minister Bernard Landry, representing the provincial government; was received by Mayor Jean Drapeau of Montreal; and attended a luncheon of the Canada-Pakistan Trade and Economic Council.

On his arrival in Ottawa on December 16, the President was officially welcomed to Canada by Governor General Edward Schreyer, who gave a state dinner at Rideau Hall that evening in Mr. Zia's honour. The President also attended a reception given by Prime Minister Trudeau.

On December 17 President Zia and his advisers met for substantive discussions with Prime Minister Trudeau and Canadian ministers, following which President Zia gave a luncheon in honour of Governor General and Mrs. Schreyer.

In Toronto, where he arrived the following day, the President was guest at a luncheon hosted by Minister of State for

Multiculturalism James Fleming.

During his stay in Canada, President Zia addressed meetings of the Pakistan communities in Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto.

Over-all, the visit served to reaffirm the enduring ties between Canada and Pakistan and highlighted the opportunities for further enhancement of the existing substantial political and economic relationships.

Aid to Ugandans and Tunisians

Canada is granting \$400 000 to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and \$50 000 to the League of Red Cross Societies (LRCS) for programs of assistance to refugees from Uganda now in Rwanda, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen announced recently.

The funds will be provided through the International Humanitarian Assistance (IHA) program of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

For two decades tensions have existed in southern Uganda between Ugandan farmers and settlers of Rwandan origin. In early October, the tensions flared up with bands of Ugandan youth invading areas in the south of Uganda now inhabited by refugees and Ugandans of Rwandan origin. They burned houses, stole cattle and forced refugees toward the border.

It is estimated that 40 000 refugees fled to Rwanda in November, many leaving their homes with only the barest necessities. Canada's contribution to the UNHCR appeal will go toward the provision of food, medical supplies, clothing and shelter for the refugees, while the efforts of the LRCS will focus on medical assistance and supplementary feeding for some 10 000 children among the refugee population.

Tunisian flood

Mr. MacEachen also announced a grant of \$60 000 to the LRCS in response to its appeal on behalf of victims of recent flooding in Tunisia.

It is estimated that 1 400 houses have been destroyed and 3 600 others partially damaged, leaving 6 200 families in need of help. In addition, arable land is flooded and 5 000 cattle have been lost.

Canada's contribution will be used, under the co-ordination of the Tunisian Red Crescent, to provide basic needs.