

The first meeting of the Canada-Mexico Ministerial Committee was held in Ottawa on October 21 and 22. The meeting marked the opening of a new phase in relations between the two countries, revealed a wide range of common interests, and identified new opportunities for co-operation between Canada and Mexico.

On December 30, an agreement renewing the commercial *modus vivendi* between Canada and Venezuela for a further period of one year was signed.

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce led a trade mission of 17 Canadian businessmen and a group of government and Crown Corporation officials to Algeria from November 21 to 24. Its objective was to assess trade and development opportunities in Algeria and to examine ways and means of improving access for Canadian goods and services, and to seek to determine ways in which Canada could participate in projects planned for Algerian development.

A trade and economic mission led by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce visited Morocco from December 15 to 21 to explore opportunities for improving the level of trade with Morocco.

Negotiations were pursued between Canadian and Tunisian officials with a view to concluding a trade agreement.

A delegation of six trade specialists and economists from Zambia began a ten-day tour of Canada on September 29. During the tour, they visited manufacturing sites and discussed possible purchases of some Canadian commodities. They also explored the possibility of investment by Canadian companies in Zambia.

During 1971, Canada concluded or renewed trade agreements with Romania and Hungary and agreed on timing for renegotiation of the Canada-U.S.S.R. Trade Agreement, which will expire on April 17, 1972. Negotiations are continuing for renewal of the Bulgarian Trade Agreement, which ran out in 1969.

Economic affairs were a significant component in the discussions that took place during the visit to Canada of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., Mr. A.N. Kosygin. It was generally agreed that it would be desirable to expand the commercial and economic contacts and trade "flows" between Canada and the Soviet Union. Early in June, arrangements were completed for the sale of a large quantity of Canadian wheat to the U.S.S.R. by May 1972. Shipments have begun for delivery of this grain.

In November, President Tito of Yugoslavia, accompanied by senior economic advisers, paid a state visit to Canada. The recent rapid increase in Canada's trading relations was a subject of discussion, both sides expressing the hope that bilateral economic relations would continue to develop.

Following establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and the People's Republic of China in October 1970, both countries have demonstrated the importance they attach to expanding and deepening trade relations. To this end, a Canadian Government economic mission, led by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Honourable Jean-Luc Pepin, paid a visit to China from June 28 to July 4, 1971. The mission included representatives of Parliament, of a number of government departments and of private trade and economic associations. Talks were held with Premier Chou En-lai and other senior Chinese Government