

Last year Malaysia was faced with increased Communist guerrilla activity based outside the country, and by a renewed Philippines claim to Sabah (North Borneo). The Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, made an extended private visit to Canada in 1968, during which he was invited to Ottawa for consultations with Prime Minister Trudeau and others. His visit aroused considerable interest in Canada, and has contributed to the growth of friendly relations between Canada and Singapore, the entrepôt trade centre of the area, which is rapidly becoming an industrial centre for the region.

The value of Canadian trade with the four countries in 1968 totalled \$357 million, with exports at \$232 million and imports (end of November) at \$125 million. Trade with Australia expanded to \$186 million (imports -- end of November).

India, Pakistan and Ceylon

Canadian relations with the subcontinent continued to be closely connected with the extensive aid which Canada had contributed to the countries of this area. Owing to a good crop year in India, however, the food shortage there improved somewhat from the previous year and Canadian food grain assistance to this country correspondingly tapered off during 1968. In October, Dr. N.S. Reddy and Mr. S.L. Shakhder, Speaker and Clerk respectively of the Lok Sabha (the Indian Parliament), visited Ottawa and met with Their Excellencies Governor-General and Mrs. Michener, as well as with senior members of both Houses of the Canadian Parliament. Canada maintained its contribution to the United Nations Military Observer Group for India and Pakistan. Senator John B. Aird, Q.C., travelled to Ceylon in August as the special representative of the Prime Minister of Canada at a ceremony held on August 5 marking the official opening of the new Katunayake International Airport terminal building, a joint Canadian-Ceylonese aid project. In the week following he visited a number of other centres in Ceylon.