

Pacific

Japan

In 1974 the relationship between Japan and Canada was raised to a new level in recognition of the ever-expanding mutuality of interests between the two nations. The aim of the relationship was firmly expressed when the Prime Minister of Japan visited Canada in September, and he and Mr. Trudeau agreed that "Japan and Canada would make constant efforts to cultivate, expand and enrich further their co-operative relationship in political, economic, cultural, scientific and technological, and other diverse fields, thereby placing the relationship on an ever broader and deeper basis". They hoped that a new era in Japan-Canada relations would thus be ushered in.

Of singular importance to the relationship is the economic component, and in 1974 Japan remained Canada's second largest individual trading partner. Imports to Canada increased by 41 per cent, and exports to Japan expanded by 23 per cent, to total more than \$3.5 billion. Efforts continued to increase the manufactured and upgraded content of Canadian exports to Japan.

Japan-Canada contacts occurred at various *ad hoc* and institutional levels throughout the year. Prior to Mr. Tanaka's visit to Canada, he and Prime Minister Trudeau held talks in Paris in April. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, who described Japan as one of the two main centres of gravity with which we hope to strengthen our relations (the other being the European Community), met with Japanese Foreign Minister Kimura during the 1974 meeting of the United Nations General Assembly. At that time the first session of the official-level Japan-Canada United Nations consultations was also convened.

Foreign policy experts from the two countries held their annual talks in Tokyo in September, and a delegation from the National Defence College paid a highly successful visit in January. Canadian officials consulted in Ottawa with the visiting Japanese Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs (Economic), as well as with Japan's chief delegate to the Law of the Sea Conference, and agricultural specialists.

In an effort to encourage and promote the enrichment of our mutual understanding, the Canadian and Japanese Governments each pledged at the time of Mr. Tanaka's visit to initiate matching grants of approximately \$1 million for the promotion of academic relations. These funds will be used primarily for the development of Japanese studies in Canada and of Canadian studies in Japan. They also agreed it would be desirable to conclude a cultural agreement.

The two Prime Ministers looked forward to an increasing momentum in Japan-Canada relations, to be sustained through the next meeting of the Japan/Canada Ministerial Committee (which it has been agreed will be held in 1975) and Mr. Trudeau's subsequent visit to Japan.

During 1974, in the interest of fostering mutual understanding, the Government announced its decision that Canada would participate in the International Ocean Exposition in Okinawa in 1975.



Using the traditional oriental brush, Prime Minister Tanaka signs guest book at University of British Columbia's Centre for Asian Studies.
UPI Photo.