

EXCHANGES WITH CHINA

The following statement was given by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, to the press in Peking, August 20, 1972:

I have discussed with the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China the encouragement of cultural, educational, scientific and technological exchanges between our countries. We think such exchanges play an important role in developing and strengthening the relations between our countries and peoples. During our talks we dealt specifically with the following areas of mutual interest:

(1) CULTURE

(a) I have extended an invitation to my Chinese colleague to send to Canada their magnificent exhibition of recent archeological finds. I am informed that the Chinese authorities are planning to send this exhibition to Europe in the second half of 1973 and I expressed the hope that in the course of this projected tour the exhibition might also come to Canada. This unique collection constitutes a national treasure for the people of China, as well as being of international historical importance. My host expressed his appreciation for this interest in the exhibition and we agreed that the Canadian and Chinese authorities should discuss the details of possible arrangements.

(b) I also indicated to my Chinese colleague that the Canadian Government would be prepared to send to China an exhibition of Eskimo prints now touring the Pacific area. Mr. Chi indicated his appreciation for this offer and we agreed that the matter should be finalized as quickly as possible.

(c) I suggested that a Chinese acrobatic troupe would be very well received in Canada. We both hope that suitable arrangements can be made for such a troupe to visit Canada in the first half of 1973.

(2) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(a) I am extremely pleased to announce that the Chinese authorities have accepted the invitation of our Ministry of Science and Technology to send to Canada a group of Chinese scientists whose interests cover a wide range of scientific fields including particularly biology, chemistry and physics. Chinese scientists will spend two weeks in Canada this fall.

(b) I am also pleased to announce the acceptance of the Canadian invitation, at the initiative of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, to send a Chinese petroleum

industry investigation team to Canada early this fall. In return, a Canadian petroleum mission has been invited to visit China in 1973. We are hopeful that the details of this return visit can be worked out in the near future.

(c) I have also accepted a Chinese invitation for a group of Canadian agricultural scientists to visit the People's Republic of China in 1973.

(3) MEDICINE

(a) I discussed with Minister Chi the Bethune medical exchange program and I am pleased to say that we have agreed that an early resumption of this exchange would be mutually beneficial for both countries.

(b) Still in the field of medicine, we noted with satisfaction that a Chinese medical delegation has last year attended the McGill Sesquicentennial in Montreal and we discussed the desirability of further visits by both sides in the very near future.

(4) EDUCATION

(a) Minister Chi and I touched on the subject of student and teacher exchanges. We agreed such exchanges were mutually beneficial and desirable. Officials on both sides will be examining the development of a program in the field of education to be instituted at an early mutually convenient date.

(b) We also discussed exchanges of publications between our various academic and scientific institutions.

(5) SPORTS

I have discussed with the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China the encouragement of the sports exchanges that are under discussion between the sports federations of the two countries. We agreed that sports exchanges can play a useful role in developing understanding between Canadian and Chinese peoples. Canadian and Chinese sports federations have had an opportunity in connection with my visit for a further exchange of views and have agreed in principle to new exchanges in the fields of volleyball, table tennis, ice hockey and gymnastics. Details of such exchanges will be worked out by the sports federations. I understand that possible future exchanges in the fields of basketball, figure skating, soccer and the exchange of coaches, films and literature in physical training, were also discussed.