

In 1972, Mr. Collins was succeeded by Mr. John Small (who was also born in China), and Mr. Huang Hua became the head of the Permanent Delegation of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations in New York. His successor, Mr. Yao Kuang remained in Canada from the spring of 1972 until the summer of 1973 when he was appointed Ambassador to Mexico. China's present Ambassador to Canada, Mr. Chang Wen-chin, arrived in Ottawa in September 1973.

Ministerial Visits

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations and the exchange of ambassadors, relations between Canada and the People's Republic of China have proceeded smoothly. A significant step was taken in the summer of 1971, when the Honourable Jean-Luc Pépin, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, led an important delegation of Canadian officials and businessmen to the People's Republic of China. This mission, the first Canadian Government mission to visit China, sought to establish close contacts with Chinese ministers, officials and business representatives in all spheres of economic and commercial activity. This objective was fully achieved. During the three working days the Canadian group spent in Peking, no fewer than 25 separate formal meetings were arranged with representatives of each of the seven State trading corporations responsible for China's export and import trade, with the People's Bank of China and with the China Council for the Promotion of Trade. The question of establishing an air service between China and Canada was raised during Mr. Pépin's visit; negotiations began in Peking in May 1972 and a civil air agreement was signed in the spring of 1973.

One of the most significant achievements of Mr. Pépin's mission was China's agreement "to consider Canada first" as a source of wheat. In addition, the Canadian Government agreed with the Chinese to exchange missions in areas of particular commercial interest to both our countries, to hold trade exhibitions in each other's country and also to hold