

level on various subjects of mutual concern, particularly matters relating to the United Nations, remained close and continued as in the past. During August, Mr. Bryce Mackasey, the Minister of Labour, paid an informal visit to Ireland in conjunction with his attendance at an ILO conference in Geneva. Official discussions on trade and other matters were held during the visits of the Irish Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr. George Colley, to Canada in September. During the summer, several members of the Associate Committee on Bird Hazards to Aircraft visited Ireland for discussions with officials on Irish experience with this problem. In September, a Canadian delegation of officials attended meetings of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea in Dublin. Following the Irish general election, Dr. Patrick Hillery succeeded the well-known Mr. Frank Aiken as Irish Minister for External Affairs.

Australia

With Canada's increasing interest in the Pacific area, Canadian relations with Australia, New Zealand and other countries in South and Southeast Asia have taken on added importance. Canada has always enjoyed strong traditional ties with Australia, stemming from, among other things, a common heritage, similarities in political and social institutions and a history of parallel development to nationhood. Relations gained strength in 1969, both nations co-operating in efforts to promote political and economic stability among the countries of the Pacific Asian rim by means of Colombo Plan programs and Commonwealth connections, and through various United Nations agencies. There was a noticeable increase in the growing interchange of information and ideas between officials at all levels on subjects of common interest and concern. The existing close and friendly relations were highlighted during the year by several visits, of which that of the Australian Prime Minister, the Right Honorable John G. Gorton, and Mrs. Gorton to Ottawa in April was of major importance. While in Ottawa, Mr. Gorton and Mrs. Gorton were the guests of Governor-General and Mrs. Michener. Mr. Gorton conferred with Prime Minister Trudeau and other Ministers on a wide range of subjects. Following the Japanese-Canadian ministerial meetings in Tokyo in the spring, the Honorable Jean-Luc Pepin, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, visited Australia for detailed discussions with Mr. John McEwen, the Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, who is also the Minister of Trade and Industry. Later in the year, an Australian Parliamentary delegation of seven led by the Honorable Peter Nixon, Minister of the Interior, made an extensive tour of Canada observing Canadian development and holding discussions with various federal and provincial leaders and officials. The Premier of West Australia, Mr. David Brand, also made an extended tour of Canada. In the course of the year, several Canadian provincial ministers and officials visited Australia in connection with subjects of direct interest to their governments.

New Zealand

Canadian relations with New Zealand have traditionally been warm and friendly, bound as both countries are in common historical, cultural and Commonwealth ties. The year 1969 brought about an even greater degree of harmony because of the response of New Zealand to indications of increasing Canadian interest in the Pacific region. This added accent was underlined by the official visit of the Prime Minister of New Zealand,