

exchange of views on matters of mutual interest on both the ministerial level and the official level. Late in November, the Honourable D.J. Carter, New Zealand Minister of Agriculture, visited Canada for discussions with the Canadian Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable H.A. Olson, and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Honourable Jean-Luc Pepin. From May 31 to June 2, the first Canada/New Zealand Consultative Committee meeting was held in Ottawa. The Committee was established on the occasion of Prime Minister Trudeau's visit to New Zealand in May 1970. At this meeting, which was on the official level, the main topics of discussion were current economic trends and problems in Canada and New Zealand; the proposed British entry to the European Economic Community (EEC), bilateral and multilateral trade matters; and tentative proposals for exchanges of personnel in areas of common interest. The success of this first consultative meeting was indicative of the desire in Canada and New Zealand to strengthen mutual ties through free discussion of common problems.

Fiji

Fiji became independent on October 10, 1970, and in July 1971 Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara and his wife paid an official visit to Canada at the invitation of Prime Minister Trudeau. In addition to his meetings with Mr. Trudeau, Ratu Sir Kamisese had talks with the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and also met officials of the Canadian International Development Agency to explore possible areas of Canadian aid to Fiji. After leaving Ottawa, Ratu Mara spent four days in British Columbia at the invitation of the provincial government.

Canada is providing assistance to the University of the South Pacific in Suva, aid under the Commonwealth Plan for Technical Co-operation, a five-year book program, and indirect assistance through contributions to the Asian Development Bank and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Western Samoa and Tonga

In August, as part of the increased Canadian interest in the South Pacific, the Government accredited the Canadian High Commissioner in New Zealand, Mr. J.A. Dougan, as non-resident High Commissioner to Western Samoa. He was similarly accredited to Tonga in October. The appointment of a non-resident High Commissioner to these two countries will facilitate Canadian participation in the economic development of the small countries of the South Pacific.

Indonesia

The largest country in Southeast Asia and fifth in the world in both area and population, Indonesia is a focus of interest in the region. During the year, relations between Canada and Indonesia, which had long been cordial, developed substantially.

In January, following the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in Singapore, Prime Minister Trudeau paid an official three-day visit to Indonesia, during which he had discussions with President Soeharto and signed