

Stronger economic ties between Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany were sought by a Canadian trade and industrial mission that visited the FRG from April 14 to 22. Mr. Pepin led the mission, which included 28 Canadian businessmen and industrialists as well as federal and provincial government representatives. A similar mission from Germany will pay a return visit to Canada.

On November 17, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce travelled to Rome for discussions with the Italian Ministers of Foreign Trade and Industry and with the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He also met leading Italian businessmen.

The growing importance of Canada's relations with Japan was underlined in 1971 by the sixth meeting of the Japan-Canada Ministerial Committee, held in Toronto on September 13 and 14. Senior ministers of both governments attended. All aspects of the political and economic relations between the countries were reviewed. Some time was naturally occupied with discussion of the monetary crisis, and the effects of U.S. measures to combat it, but the main concerns of the meeting were positive. Trade between Canada and Japan maintained its year-to-year increase during 1971, reaching a total of just under \$1,600 million. The gradual liberalization of Japan's import policy continued. Agreement was reached by Canada and Japan on the desirability of further multilateral tariff reductions within the GATT framework. Plans were made to develop Canadian commercial contacts in Japan through a trade mission of senior businessmen, led by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, in January 1972. Both countries maintained close consultation on international political questions, in particular the growing recognition of China. Co-operation and exchange of views on scientific questions, environmental trade problems and foreign investment policy continued to develop, as did the mutual interest in matters affecting the development of resources and energy. The Minister of State for Science and Technology will lead a scientific mission to Japan early in 1972 with a view to discussing an agreement on science and technology.

A Canadian team travelled to Manila on November 27 to negotiate with officials of the Philippines Government a most-favoured-nation trade agreement. On December 2, a draft trade agreement was initialled *ad referendum*.

In the spring, the Honourable J.J. Greene, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, led a mission of senior federal officials to Australia. Canada and Australia have a similar interest in the exploitation of vast natural resources and, as a result, discussion was particularly useful to both sides. Agreement was reached that further exchange of views should be encouraged.

From May 31 to June 2, the Joint Canada-New Zealand Consultative Committee met in Ottawa to discuss bilateral relations and multilateral questions of interest to both countries. Amendments to the 1932 Canada-New Zealand Trade Agreement were negotiated in 1970 and signed during the course of the meeting. The amendments brought certain provisions of the Trade Agreement up to date and formally established the Consultative Committee.

A new trade agreement was signed on November 17 by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Ambassador of Colombia to Canada. This instrument provides a more formal and direct basis for Canada's bilateral trade and economic relations with Colombia.