

about the Indochina war and the role, if any, which Canada might usefully play there; of their attitude towards China and the intentions of the Canadian Government to recognize as *de jure* the Government in Peking; of their suggestions for the most effective way to increase multilateral trade. In these respects we were told in both New Zealand and Australia of the active desire of those Governments to engage in regular meetings of ministers and officials to discuss these and other matters. We were made aware by Prime Ministers Holyoake and Gorton of the sense of responsibility which they feel toward the countries of Southeast Asia, as evidenced by their aid programs, by the participation of New Zealand and Australian troops in Vietnam, and the presence of New Zealand and Australian ministers at the Djakarta conference.

In those two countries, as well as in Malaysia and Singapore, I was impressed with the deep belief which was held in the importance both of the United Nations and the Commonwealth. Without question, the common ground occupied by those states which are members of the Commonwealth permits almost automatically an exchange of views among their representatives, which is at least as friendly and as frank, and in most cases more so, than is possible between any countries anywhere.

In Japan we were impressed with the throbbing economy; an economy in which actual productivity far outstrips the real growth in gross national product in this country; an economy which has reached the point where restrictions on the import both of investment capital and a number of manufactured items are expected to be progressively relaxed in the period ahead.

DISCUSSIONS AND TRADE

The visits to the five countries offered an opportunity to discuss matters of special Canadian concern. We were able, for example, to explain in some detail the nature of Canada's Arctic legislation and the circumstances which led to its introduction. Because Australia will be receiving tenders later this month for the construction of a nuclear-powered steam-generating plant, there was an opportunity to present to the Australian Cabinet the advantages of the Canadian natural fuel CANDU reactor. Agricultural problems occupied a considerable portion of the discussions in both New Zealand and Australia, where dairy products and wheat form important segments of the economy, while Canadian textile policies attracted keen and, I think, understanding interest in Malaysia, Singapore and Japan. The implications for the trade of each of our countries of the possible entry of Britain into the European Common Market were also discussed, especially in Australia and New Zealand, and will no doubt be the subject of further discussions in the months ahead.

It is difficult in the short term to measure with

any accuracy the value of such a trip. Perhaps the only thing that can be said for certain is that Canada would lose opportunities for increased trade and influence were such trips not to take place on occasion. I sense, however, additional positive gains. For myself as Prime Minister I have had the invaluable experience of listening to the views of important world leaders both on their own regional problems as well as on their relations with Canada. This in turn has given the Canadian Government the opportunity to make its views better known in matters of mutual concern. Several important agreements were signed and markets of great value, especially to Western Canada, were explored.

VALUABLE PUBLICITY

But perhaps of more importance than either is the opportunity which has been given to hundreds of thousands of persons in the Pacific countries to learn something of Canada and Canadians through the publicity given in their homes on the occasion of this visit, and the opportunity given to Canadians to see something of their Pacific neighbours through the eyes of the newsmen who accompanied me on the tour and who were so painstaking in their coverage of all official activities. If nothing more were to be achieved than this educational experience, an experience which leads to tolerance and understanding, then the trip could be well regarded as worth while.

Before I sit down, perhaps Honourable Members will permit me to express in this place the pride which I know they all share with me in the outstanding performance of all those Canadians who are working at our offices in those countries, in aid programs and in many other capacities, as well as those who this year have made Canada's presence at Expo 70 such an overwhelming success. Canada is well represented abroad. I particularly wish to express my appreciation and admiration, and that of those who were with me, for the skill of the members of the Canadian Armed Forces who carried our party with safety and punctuality throughout a very demanding itinerary.

It is trite but true to say that we sometimes become so closely associated with the problems of our country that we lose the broad perspective. Canada, from abroad, is an attractive, exciting country. I return to Ottawa with increased pride in being a Canadian.

SHRUB-ROSE SUCCESS STORY

The Martin Frobisher shrub-rose,⁽¹⁾ developed by Dr. Felicitas Svejda of the Canada Agriculture Research Station, Ottawa, has been an instant success. All nursery stocks have been sold and, judging by the interest this spring, it will take several years to propagate enough stock to meet the demand.

(1) See CWB, Vol. 25, No. 18, dated May 6, 1970, P. 3 and Vol. 23, No. 49, dated Dec. 4, 1968, P. 3.