

. During the year, visits to Canada were made by the Chief Justice of New Zealand, Sir Richard Wild, and, from Australia, by the Minister of the Environment, Aborigines and the Arts, the Honourable Peter Howson; the Minister of Health, Sir Kenneth Anderson, and the Premier of New South Wales, in addition to large numbers of officials, journalists and businessmen from both countries. Canadians visiting Australia and New Zealand included senior officials, both federal and provincial. Canadian naval vessels called at South Pacific ports, including Auckland and Sydney.

## Japan

As concerns Canada's national interests, Japan occupies a particularly important position in the Asian and Pacific area. Canadian objectives in Japan have tended to concentrate heavily on the economic and commercial aspects of that relationship. Although still valid, this tendency must now be viewed in the context of the wider objective of broadening relations between the two countries by intensifying their political and other aspects. Major objectives during 1972 included an expansion of Canada's share of the Japanese market, particularly in manufactures and processed goods, the stimulation of interest in (and awareness of) Canada through exchanges of information and personnel, and the promotion of Canada's economic growth and cultural enrichment through immigration and manpower programmes.

In January, the Honourable Jean-Luc Pepin, then Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, visited Japan at the head of a trade mission composed of some 35 officials and businessmen, with the aim of enlarging the market there for Canadian manufactured and processed goods. Although in absolute terms our exports of such products to Japan increased in 1972, there has been little change so far in the percentage of total exports. It is significant that Japan's five largest trading companies sent exploratory missions to Canada in the months following the Pepin mission.

Another significant ministerial visit to Japan in 1972 was that undertaken by the Honourable Alastair Gillespie, Minister of State for Science and Technology. Its

purpose was to prepare the way for a greater exchange of scientific and technological expertise between the two countries. It was expected that a Japanese mission would return this visit and that the exchange would eventually lead to mutually beneficial programs in a wide variety of fields.

In September, a group of senior Canadian officials travelled to Tokyo in order to discuss with their Japanese counterparts questions of long-term policy in the Pacific region and in the world. In addition, a number of technical, trade and other missions were exchanged, all with the basic purpose of widening and deepening the understanding between Canada and



A Canadian engineer and assistants working on the Thaketa Bridge project in Burma, under the auspices of the Colombo Plan.

Richard Harrington Photo