

of exchange programs. Cultural relations continued to expand, especially by the visit of the Ontario Science Centre's "Science Circus" to China and the Shandong Ballet Troupe to Canada. In November 1983, a senior Chinese cultural delegation visited Canada and signed a two-year program aimed at developing exchanges in various aspects of culture.

Republic of Korea and Hong Kong

Canada's trade relations with the Republic of Korea were fostered by high-level visits, including the visit to Canada of Korea's Minister of Commerce and Industry, and the visit to Korea by the Minister for International Trade. Two-way trade continued to grow at an above-average rate, exceeding \$1.3 billion in 1983. Coal, copper and telecommunications equipment continued to be the major Canadian exports while textiles, clothing and electronic goods were the largest components in Korea's sales to Canada. Canada provided political support to the Republic of Korea in connection with the Korean Airlines disaster in September and the Rangoon bombing incident in October.

Total trade between Canada and Hong Kong reached a new annual record of slightly over one billion dollars. Canadian exports of \$221 million, while down 8.7 per cent from the record 1983 figure of \$242 million, still represented an average compound growth of 12.5 per cent since 1979. The Minister for International Trade visited the territory twice during the year.

Sino-British negotiations continued on the political future of Hong Kong, and although the economic and financial situation stabilized somewhat at the end of 1983, a climate of uncertainty clearly remained among certain sectors of the Hong Kong community. This led to a major increase in applications for immigration into Canada, especially in the entrepreneurial and self-employed category. The total number of immigrants from Hong Kong into Canada in 1983 was almost 10 000, a figure that included a significant number of refugees, mostly Indochinese.

Korean and Hong Kong cultural and academic exchanges with Canada have grown and they range from performing artists' appearances to the establishment of Canadian studies programs.

Indochina

Canada's relations with the three countries of Indochina remained complicated by Vietnam's continuing military occupation of Cambodia. As a result, significant bilateral relations did not develop between Canada and these countries.

South and Southeast Asia

With one-third of the world's population, vast resources and great potential, the nations of the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia have been becoming increasingly important in Canadian foreign policy. The region is also a focal point of superpower rivalry and contains two of the world's continuing crisis areas, Cambodia and Afghanistan.

Canada has continued to express strong support of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) initiative, which calls for a peaceful resolution of the Cambodian problem involving a withdrawal of Vietnamese armed forces and an opportunity for the Khmer people to choose their own form of government freely. Canada also supported international

efforts to secure a withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and has called for recognition of the Afghan peoples' right to self-determination without outside interference.

Canada has supported the role of ASEAN as a focal point of stability and economic progress in the region. Canada also takes a favourable view of the progress made towards forming a South Asia regional co-operation forum.

The development of Canada's trading relations with South Asia is a high priority. Canada's exports to South Asia amounted to just under \$500 million in 1983 and imports were \$150 million. Major exports included wheat, potash, asbestos, wood pulp, railway machinery, aircraft, generators, and telecommunications equipment. Major imports were clothing, textiles, rugs, and food products, including coffee and tea.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs visited Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan during June and July 1983, reaffirming Canada's close relationships with those countries. The Prime Minister attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in New Delhi in November and also visited Bangladesh.

The Minister for International Trade visited Hong Kong, Malaysia, Brunei and India in February 1984, in support of Canadian bilateral and commercial interests.

These high-level visits were matched by a number of visits to Canada. In June 1983, the Bangladeshi Minister of Energy visited Canadian oil and gas companies, in addition to the federal and Alberta governments. In February 1984, the Pakistani Planning Minister met with the Minister of External Affairs and attended the Canada-Pakistan Trade and Economic Council.

The private sector was also active with trade missions to and from South Asian countries. A general trade mission to Pakistan, sponsored by the Department in March 1984, received considerable attention, coinciding with the Canada Week celebrations in Karachi. In March 1984, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and the Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association of Canada jointly mounted a mission to India to look into joint ventures and technology licensing opportunities in the energy and electronics sectors.

Commercial relations with the countries of South Asia continued to expand and included the signing of a memorandum of understanding in principle regarding the Chamera hydro-electric project in India, which is to be financed jointly by the Export Development Corporation, CIDA and Canadian private banks.

ASEAN

Canada continues to be strongly committed to the growth of economic and commercial ties with the six member countries of ASEAN, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. ASEAN has become a substantial trading partner, with Canada's exports to the group totalling about \$675 million in 1983, compared with imports of \$275 million. Within Canada the profile of the region was enhanced by the Third Pacific Rim Opportunities Conference held in Calgary in October 1983, and the staging of a series of ASEAN Export Opportunities Seminars in 1984 to aid exporters to understand the Canadian market. The Minister for International Trade led a major delegation of Canadian businessmen on a tour of ASEAN capitals in May 1983.