

of supply for plant technology and sophisticated equipment and reiterated that they would consider Canada first when considering the purchase of a complete synthetic rubber production plant. Immediately prior to the Prime Minister's visit, a long-term wheat agreement had also been signed between Canada and China providing for the purchase of up to 224 million bushels of wheat over the next three years.

The visit thus provided a new impetus to Sino-Canadian trade which reached a record high of \$340 million in 1973 (exports to China of \$287 million and imports from China of \$53 million).

The overall increase in trade has been most satisfying. At the same time, there has been an important and notable change in the composition of Canadian exports; where for most of the past decade, 90 per cent of our exports to China have been accounted for by wheat sales, last year the percentage made up of non-wheat items rose to approximately one-third of total exports, a healthy trend to export diversification.

Significant advances have also been made in the field of scientific and technological co-operation. A Chinese mining mission visiting Canada in early 1972 resulted in Chinese purchases of \$50 million worth of mining and metallurgical equipment. Canada also hosted important Chinese missions in the fields of petroleum, physics, computer technology, electricity and nuclear energy. 1974 has already witnessed the planning of at least sixteen different missions between Canada and China in the commercial and/or scientific and technological areas.

Medicine has also been a sector of special interest in Sino-Canadian relations. An important and comprehensive report was presented to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and to the Minister of