

Hong Kong is a major source of immigrants to Canada. In addition, the Canadian Commission located there has responsibility for the family-reunification programs with China and Vietnam.

The year 1978 was characterized in the People's Republic of China (P.R.C.) by a number of major policy changes, which were reflected in the further development of Sino-Canadian relations. In March, China's ten-year economic plan was announced, calling for the rapid transformation of China into a modern industrial state by the year 2000 and stressing the need to acquire foreign technology and expertise as a means of reaching this ambitious goal.

Canada's opportunities for trade expansion with China were much enhanced by this development. In January 1978, the Secretary of State for External Affairs made a visit to the P.R.C., during which a wide range of international and bilateral issues was discussed, including the scope for trade and industrial co-operation.

In October, a group of senior Canadian businessmen visited China and met with leading Chinese experts in processing, telecommunications, power transmission, agricultural machinery and air services. A number of the members of this delegation have since been invited back to Peking for further discussions. During 1978, Sino-Canadian trade increased by 20 per cent to approximately \$550 million.

Coinciding with the Secretary of State for External Affairs' visit was the tour of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, part of a continuing series of cultural and sports exchanges that also included, during 1978, an exhibit in Canada of paintings by the Chinese artist Hu Hsien, a visit by Celia Franca of the National Ballet to China, a visit to Canada by a Chinese figure-skating observation group, a Canadian photographic exhibition in China, a tour of Canada by Chinese gymnasts, and a visit by a Canadian Badminton Federation team to China. A National Film Board team went to China in June, and plans are under way for further exchanges by Chinese and Canadian film-production teams.

Science and technology exchanges continued on a substantial scale, involving such areas as permafrost science, iron-ore geology, operational research, agricultural economics, Pre-Cambrian stratigraphy geology, harbour equipment, satellite communications, gas transmission and soil sciences.

There were a number of visits to Canada by senior Chinese delegations during 1978. In June, the Vice-Chairman of the National People's Congress led a parliamentary delegation to Canada at the invitation of the Speakers of the House and the Senate. China's Vice-Minister of Agriculture toured Canadian agricultural facilities in July and August, and in October, an education delegation led by China's Vice-Minister of Education came to Canada. In response to a Chinese request that Canada receive up to 500 Chinese students in Canadian