

Noting the contribution made by the increasing contacts and exchanges at all levels between the two peoples in recent years to the enhancement and diversification of the ties between the two countries, the Ministers concurred in the view that the broadening of knowledge and understanding between the two countries, *inter alia*, through cultural exchanges is of fundamental importance and should be encouraged in every possible way. In this connection, they noted the progress of the negotiations to conclude a cultural agreement between the two countries now under way on the basis of the joint communiqué between the Prime Ministers of the two countries in September 1974 and hoped for its early conclusion. The Ministers also expressed their satisfaction with the fact that the programmes for promoting academic relations which the Prime Ministers of the two countries expressed their intention to initiate in September 1974 are under active development and looked forward to the effective implementation of the programmes.

The Ministers welcomed the fact that the Seventh Meeting of the Canada-Japan Ministerial Committee had expanded the opportunities for establishing personal contact between the leaders of the two countries, thereby contributing greatly to further strengthening mutual understanding and trust. In this connection, the Canadian Ministers extended the invitation of the Canadian government to hold the next meeting of the committee in Canada and the Japanese Ministers were pleased to accept.