

## PACIFIC NATIONS ON THE MARCH

The communique issued after the recent meeting in Kuala Lumpur of the Commonwealth Economic Consultative Council, which was attended for Canada by the Minister of Trade and Commerce and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance, was tabled in the House of Commons on September 8. Mr. Sharp prefaced the act of tabling with the following remarks:

...On the way to Kuala Lumpur, we paid short visits to Hong Kong and Singapore, meeting local government officials and businessmen interested in trade with Canada. While in Hong Kong, we had the opportunity of discussions with representatives of the China Resources Company, which...has been buying substantial quantities of wheat from the Canadian Wheat Board on behalf of mainland China.

In Hong Kong, in Singapore, in Kuala Lumpur and later in Tokyo, we were enormously impressed by the high rate of economic activity. Everywhere one looked factories were being erected, roads were being built, apartment houses were rising. There can be no doubt that these Pacific countries are on the march and have great potential as markets for Canadian products.

### A JARRING NOTE

The Commonwealth Economic Consultative Council met in Kuala Lumpur on the first anniversary of the foundation of Malaysia. We were happy to join in the celebrations. I regret to say that the celebrations were marred by less happy events and I draw attention to the text of the communique in which the ministers from all the 18 independent Commonwealth countries joined in recalling the assurance given by the Commonwealth prime ministers of their sympathy and support of Malaysia's efforts to preserve its sovereign independence and integrity and to achieve a peaceful and honourable settlement of its current differences with its neighbours.

The discussions at Kuala Lumpur were notable for their emphasis on the problems of the developing countries, both within and without the Commonwealth. We were happy to be able to say that Canada is stepping up the level and quality of our external aid, particularly in the field of education, and that the Government of Canada supports strongly the international efforts that are being made to improve the trading position of the developing countries.

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### VISA AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN

The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced on September 8 in the House of Commons that negotiations between the Canadian and Japanese Governments for an agreement abolishing the non-immigrant visa requirement for short-term visits by citizens of either country had been concluded during the recent Canada-Japan ministerial meeting in Japan. The agreement, which is in the form of an exchange of notes, was signed on September 5, 1964, at Tokyo, by Mr. Martin on behalf of the Government of Canada and by the Honourable Etsusaburo Shiina, Foreign Minister of Japan, on behalf of his Government.

### TERMS OF AGREEMENT

Under the terms of the agreement, which comes into effect on September 20, citizens of Canada and Japan who are *bona fide* non-immigrants (visitors not seeking employment or permanent residence) and who are in possession of valid national passports may enter the other country without visas for periods not exceeding three consecutive months, provided they meet the normal laws and regulations governing non-immigrant entry into the country concerned.

Visas, when required, shall be free of charge and valid for any number of entries within 12 months from the date of issue. The issuing government, however, retains the right to grant visas valid for a single entry in particular cases.

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### COURSE IN FOREST-FIRE CONTROL

During August, 30 forestry officials from 15 countries were given a two-week forest-fire control study tour and seminar in Canada. The visit, coordinated by the federal Department of Forestry in co-operation with the Department of Lands and Forests of Ontario and Quebec, was sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Participants came from Australia, West Cameroun, Chile, the Dominican Republic, France, India, Iraq, Iran, Malagasy, Mexico, West Pakistan, Turkey and Uganda, with observers attending from Britain and the United States.

At the Ontario Forest Ranger School at Dorset and the Quebec Forest Ranger School at Duchesnay, delegates were shown the various modern methods of fire suppression used in this country. The visitors expressed interest in the vital role of an informed public, as well as in lookouts and aerial patrols and forest-fire detection. They were also interested in specially-developed suppression equipment as modern back pumps and portable power pumps. Many delegates said they hope to introduce some of the methods and equipment they had seen into their own countries.

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### SPAIN-CANADA A-AGREEMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, recently announced that an agreement between the Governments of Canada and Spain for co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy had been signed in Ottawa. Mr. Martin signed for Canada and the Spanish Ambassador, His Excellency Francisco Javier Conde, signed for Spain. The agreement is to be ratified and will come into force upon the exchange of instruments of ratification.

This agreement provides the framework for co-operation in a variety of forms, including the exchange of information, the supply of equipment and materials, and access to and use of facilities. It is similar to eight others so far signed by Canada. Such agreements for co-operation on a bilateral basis are consistent with membership in and support of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to which both Canada and Spain belong.