

Minister of Fisheries J. Bolger, who discussed methods used by Canada to implement its 200-mile economic zone. In August D.S. Tomson, Minister of Justice, attended the Commonwealth Law Society meeting in Winnipeg.

Consultations by officials were held on issues ranging from the law of the sea to policy developments in the South Pacific. The Deputy Minister for Regional Economic Expansion, J.D. Love, visited New Zealand in January for discussions on government organization, and a representative of the Department of Indian Affairs toured New Zealand during the same month to assess policies relating to aboriginal rights.

### **Vietnam**

There was a satisfactory growth in relations between Canada and Vietnam during 1977. In July, Ambassador Tran Tuan Anh arrived to assume charge of the Vietnamese mission established in Ottawa in November 1976. Three members of the Vietnamese Women's Union toured Canada in late November and early December, under the auspices of a Vancouver non-governmental organization, to encourage the granting of more aid to Vietnam. In response to a Vietnamese request, Canada arranged to provide wheat flour valued at \$5 million and to meet the transportation costs. The Canadian Red Cross, with the help of \$200,000 from CIDA, announced plans to re-equip a blood-bank in Ho Chi Minh Ville, formerly Saigon. Other Canadian non-governmental organizations, with financial help from CIDA, continued to provide assistance in various fields. Two Vietnamese officials attended a course in Winnipeg sponsored by the Canadian International Grains Institute. Trade relations were marked by the sale of 120,000 tonnes of wheat to Vietnam.

### **Thailand**

Canada's relations with Thailand, which broadened in 1977, were not affected by the change of government in Bangkok in October. Canadian exports to Thailand increased by 30 per cent in the first six months of 1977 and were expected to exceed \$51 million by the

end of the year. As in 1976, considerable numbers of Canadian businessmen visited Thailand during the year seeking commercial opportunities and the Canadian Export Development Corporation became involved for the first time in a financial venture with Thailand. The Thai Ministers of the Interior and of Industry visited Canada, and towards the end of the year a Canadian delegation visited Bangkok to begin negotiations on a double-taxation agreement. Canada continued to provide assistance to a number of national and international programs in Thailand, including support for regional bodies such as the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization. Canadian bilateral aid to Thailand in 1977 involved projects of rural electrification and inland fisheries.

### **South Pacific**

Canada's relations with the South Pacific island states expanded during the year in response to the interest of the islands in diversifying their foreign relations and in securing increased aid.

In May, the Secretary-General of the South Pacific Commission, Dr Macu Salato, accompanied by Dr Guy Motha, Director of Programs for the Commission, visited Ottawa to discuss with officials the prospects for closer links with the SPC and for more aid for its members.

The Canadian High Commissioner in Wellington represented Canada at the seventeenth South Pacific Conference in Pago-Pago in September. High Commission representatives were observers at the eighth meeting of the South Pacific Forum in Port Moresby in August and at the first meeting of the Forum's South Pacific Regional Fisheries Agency in Suva in November. In view of Canada's expertise in fisheries conservation and in surveillance of its 200-mile economic zone, the Forum requested Canadian assistance in this area for the Fisheries Agency.

The highlight of the year was the visit of Prime Minister Tupuola Efi of Western Samoa to Ottawa in October for discussions with Prime Minister Trudeau and officials of the Department of External Affairs and CIDA. Western Samoa and Canada agreed to sign a Foreign Investment Insurance Agreement. Prime Minister Tupuola also paid courtesy calls in Vancouver and Victoria, where he was received by the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia and Premier William Bennett.