

Asia and the Pacific

East Asia

Japan

In 1973, trade figures indicated that Japan had become Canada's second-largest trading partner. Parallel with this rapidly-growing economic relationship, the Secretary of State for External Affairs stated in 1973 that Canada was attempting to "politicize a bilateral relationship which has, in the past, been too narrowly commercial by increasing and deepening consultations in a wide variety of fields". To this end, Mr. Sharp met with the Japanese Foreign Minister and Prime Minister in March *en route* to his fact-finding mission to Indochina. Mr. Sharp also travelled to Tokyo in September to meet with his Japanese counterpart.

The Minister for Industry, Trade and Commerce met with his Japanese counterpart on the occasion of the GATT meeting in Tokyo in December. Canadian and Japanese foreign policy experts met in Montebello, Quebec, in August for the annual official-level policy-planning talks to discuss long-term policy in the Pacific region and the world. The National Defence College visited Japan in January. *Ad hoc* consultations also occurred during 1973.

Japanese visitors to Canada included the Minister of Agriculture in October, who had talks with the Canadian Minister of Agriculture, and in addition with the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Minister of Industry,

Trade and Commerce and the Minister in charge of the Wheat Board. A Japanese official-level mission in science and technology arrived in November as a follow-up to the Gillespie science and technology mission of the previous year.

China

The year 1973 was a productive one in Canada's developing relations with the People's Republic of China, climaxed by the successful visit of the Prime Minister to Peking in October. The months prior to the Prime Minister's visit had included many exchanges between Canada and China, including two delegations led by Canadian ministers: a petroleum mission led by the Honourable Donald Macdonald in April and a scientific mission led by the Honourable Jeanne Sauvé in September.

In addition, other Canadian delegations, representing a variety of fields, visited China. These included representatives of the medical profession and the agricultural sciences, and of sport and commerce. In addition, there was a successful exhibition of Canadian Eskimo art in Peking and Shanghai, and in September a two-year program of student exchanges was formally announced. Visits to Canada by a group of Chinese gymnasts and by a large delegation of Chinese journalists preceded this valuable exchange of Canadian and Chinese university students.

During the Prime Minister's visit, agreement was reached on several significant issues of mutual importance to China and Canada. The two countries signed a trade agreement that serves as a framework for the continuing development of Sino-Canadian trade and also provides for formal exchange of MFN treatment and for the creation of a joint trade committee, which is to meet annually. The two countries had earlier signed a wheat agreement under which China was to purchase up to 224 million bushels of Canadian wheat over the next three years.

Another significant achievement of the visit was in the consular field, where agreement was reached on a general consular understanding as well as on an understanding facilitating the reunion of families of Chinese origin. In other areas, agreement was reached on reciprocal short-term exchanges in the medical, scientific, and technological fields, as well as in culture and sport.