

Canada

Volume 8 No. 1

January-February 1974



COVER: A party of snowmobile sportsmen set out across a winter landscape. Our cover story (opposite) describes the meteoric success story of the skidoo in Quebec and the problems it generated. Visitors to the Canadian pavilion at Asia '72 who saw the skidoo on display there can now read all about it.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: 'Skidoo' is adapted from an article by Jean Paré in the French Canadian magazine *Le Maclean*. It is reproduced by courtesy of the author and the publisher. 'What Did They Talk About?' by Clyde Sanger originally appeared in *International Perspectives*. The views expressed are Mr. Sanger's. 'Telegram, Sir—No More' is reproduced by courtesy of *Week-end Magazine*, Copyright 1973. All rights reserved.

CANADA est publié par le Haut Commissariat du Canada, New Delhi, et imprimé par Vakil & Sons Private Limited, Bombay.

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Trade and aid headed the agenda when Canadian and Indian government officials held a series of meetings in New Delhi early in November. The Consultation was set up under a decision taken by the two countries' prime ministers when Mrs. Gandhi visited Canada last June. Both sides afterwards expressed satisfaction with the course of the talks and the Canadian delegation returned to Ottawa with a deeper understanding of the Indian situation.

Both sides favoured an increase in two-way trade. The Canadians suggested that India send more salesmen to explore the large potential of the Canadian market. Concurrently, the Canadians looked to the Indian government to ensure that a bigger portion of India's free foreign exchange was spent on purchases in Canada in view of the size of Canada's bilateral assistance effort.

The talks envisaged further growth of Canadian assistance in respect of new projects and augmentation of the general line of credit aimed at promoting the expansion of Indian industry. Current commodity and fertilizer loans and food aid would remain constant at the present levels.

Project assistance would henceforth lay greater emphasis on the technical know-how component, particularly in the areas of power mining, forestry and pulp and paper manufacturing. The object would be to step up the transfer of Canadian technology in selected fields and to supply Canadian expertise for product adaptation, quality control and marketing to enhance India's capacity to export. Specifically, Canadian know-how would be made available in pulp and paper, data processing and retention, oceanography, space photography and mapping, photogrammetry, serial magnetic surveying, water resource management, power transmission, aluminium technology, space communications, electronic communications and controls technology and agriculture, notably in dryland farming.

Pulp and paper was a new entry in the record of Canadian assistance; so was forestry. Collaboration in several other fields would be expanded, specifically in animal husbandry, mining and mineral development, oil exploration and several manufacturing projects. The traditional partnership in power, transport and communications would continue.

Coming as it did when the Indian government was giving the final touches to the Fifth Five-Year Plan, the visit of Canadian officials could not have been more timely. The delegation heard a detailed exposition by Planning Minister D.P. Dhar and Professor S. Chakravarty, Member of the Planning Commission. The philosophy of a direct attack on poverty pervaded the Consultation and the professed Indian goal of self-reliance was reflected in the emphasis on the transfer of technology.

The Canadian delegation was led by R.E. Collins, Assistant Under Secretary of State in the Department of External Affairs. It included Jacques Gérin, Vice-President, Canadian International Development Agency, and Claude Charland, Assistant Deputy Minister in the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. The Indian delegation was led by B.K. Sanyal, Additional Secretary (Economic Division), Ministry of External Affairs. The absence due to illness of the Canadian High Commissioner, Bruce Williams, was regretted by both delegations.



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