

non-Chinese historical figures in China today and Canada is now widely known there as the homeland of Norman Bethune. Dr. Bethune's birth-place (in Gravenhurst, Ontario) has been purchased and is currently being restored by the Federal Government.

In April 1949 the People's Liberation Army entered the capital of the Nationalist Government, Nanking. The Canadian Embassy in Nanking closed in 1951 and the Canadian Consulate in Shanghai in 1952. This marked the end of Canada's old relationship with China.

During the following two decades, Canada's official relations with the People's Republic of China were non-existent. It was clear from the beginning that the Peking Government was effectively in control of the mainland and its people, and therefore met most of the classic tests for recognition. Successive Canadian Governments between 1949 and 1968 examined the possibility of entering into official relations but there were serious obstacles to doing so: the hostilities in Korea between 1950 and 1953 and the atmosphere of bitterness that followed, and the fact that the authorities on Taiwan and the Peking Government both claimed to be the sole legal government of China.

The Establishment of Diplomatic Relations

In 1968, Prime Minister Trudeau pledged, if elected, to review Canada's China policy and to initiate discussions with the People's Republic of China on the establishment of diplomatic relations. These talks, which began in Stockholm in February 1969, culminated in the joint communiqué of October 13, 1970. The primary stumbling block during the twenty months of negotiations was the issue of Taiwan. Canada's position was, and is, that the Canadian Government neither endorses nor challenges the Chinese Government's position regarding the sovereignty of Taiwan. Under the terms of the joint communiqué the Canadian Government recognized the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China. On the status of Taiwan the communiqué reads: "The Chinese Government reaffirms that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the