

Mr. Jamieson in Japan and China

The visit of Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson to Japan and China from January 24 to February 3 demonstrates the importance Canada attaches to its evolving relations with these countries. Mr. Jamieson was accompanied by four Members of Parliament, six senior businessmen, government officials and media representatives.

In Tokyo, Mr. Jamieson met for the first time with new Japanese Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda. He called on Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda and, following meetings with other senior government and business leaders, he also visited briefly Kyoto, the ancient capital in western Japan.

The highlight of Mr. Jamieson's stay in Japan was the successful conclusion of negotiations leading to the revision of the 1959 Canada/Japan Nuclear Co-operation Agreement which provides for permanent nuclear-safeguards arrangements in accordance with Canadian Cabinet decisions. (See *Canada Weekly*, dated February 8, P. 5.) As a result, Mr. Jamieson announced in Tokyo the resumption of uranium shipments to Japan.

Discussions with Japanese ministers also focused on international economic and political matters of mutual interest

as well as aspects of bilateral relations.

Mr. Jamieson welcomed Canada's growing trade with Japan (two-way trade totalled \$4.3 billion in 1977), which is Canada's second largest national trading partner. At the same time, he stated forcefully that Canada wanted better access to Japanese markets particularly for manufactured goods and other processed products. Mr. Jamieson noted that Canada shared the concern of other countries that Japan's huge trade surpluses could have a destabilizing impact on world trading patterns.

China

In Peking, Mr. Jamieson had two rounds of talks with Foreign Minister Huang Hua which were continuations of discussions initiated during Mr. Huang's visit to Ottawa in October 1977. He also called on Party Chairman and Premier Hua Kuo-feng and Foreign Trade Minister Li Chiang. In Peking, the Members of Parliament met with the Secretary-General of the National People's Congress and the Canadian businessmen called on Chinese trading corporations. The party left Peking on February 2 for Kueilin in southern China and departed China from Canton on February 4.

Mr. Jamieson's visit was successful in promoting an image of Canada as a country worthy of special attention in bila-

teral and multilateral spheres of co-operation. In particular, Chinese leaders assured him of good prospects for increased trade between both countries. Mr. Jamieson expressed the hope that China, in view of its goal to modernize rapidly, would purchase certain types of technology for which Canada is widely renowned.

Other bilateral questions discussed in Peking included exchanges in the areas of science and technology, media, culture and sports; family reunification and academic relations. Much attention was also devoted to an extensive exchange of views on international questions of mutual interest. Mr. Jamieson urged the Chinese leaders to play an active role in matters relating to disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

Mr. Jamieson's trip coincided with the highly successful tour of Japan and China by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, under the auspices of the Department of External Affairs, and he attended concerts given by the orchestra in Tokyo and Peking.

Canada bans mirex

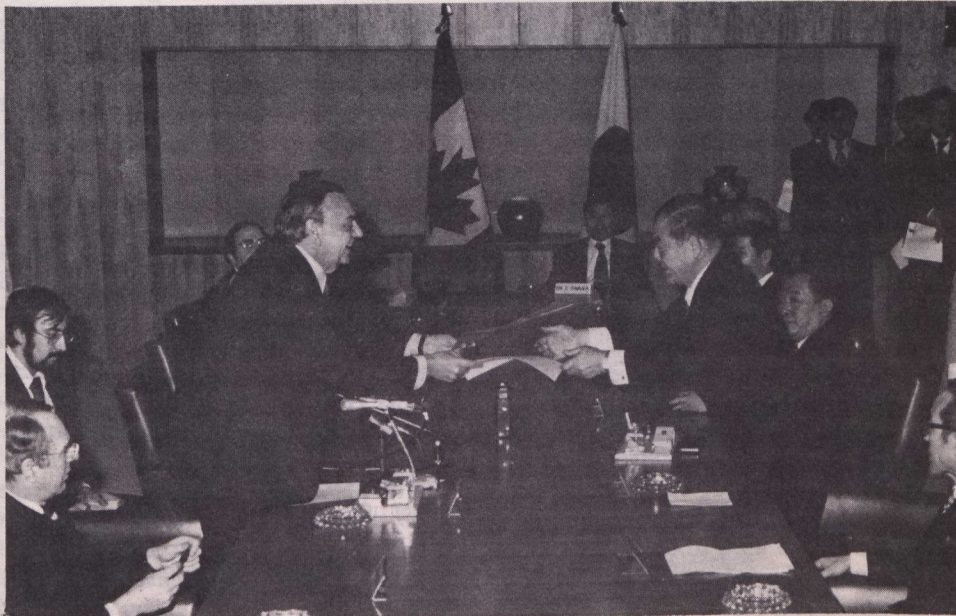
Environment Canada and the Department of National Health and Welfare intend to prohibit all uses of mirex (Dechlorane) in Canada.

Mirex is biologically active, accumulates in food chains, is extremely persistent and disperses in the environment. These properties resemble those exhibited by many organochlorine substances such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), DDT and the cyclodiene insecticides. It was used in Canada as a flame retardant in plastics and by the military as a pyrotechnic for generating white smoke.

In 1974, a scientist at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters at Burlington, Ontario, found that mirex was evident in Lake Ontario and its ecosystem. Sediment samples indicated that it was being released into the lake from two sources — both in the United States.

Experimental studies on rats and mice have shown that dietary levels of the substance cause a variety of effects such as cataracts in suckling rats, an increase in foetal abnormalities and possibly cancer.

Although two Canadian companies used mirex prior to 1969, they were not associated with the contamination of Lake Ontario.



Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson (left) and Japanese Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda exchange copies of the Canada/Japan Nuclear Co-operation Agreement which was initialled by chief negotiators of both sides in Tokyo on January 26. Looking on (front right) is Japanese Ambassador to Canada Y. Nara, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs K. Aino (right of Foreign Minister) and (front left) Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs A.E. Gotlieb.