

which followed the outbreak of hostilities in Korea in 1950, and the fact that the authorities on Taiwan and the Peking Government both claimed to be the sole legal government of China, presented serious obstacles to successive Canadian Governments wishing to establish official relations with the People's Republic of China.

After 1960, China emerged as a major market for Canadian wheat despite opposition to sales to "Red China" in some quarters. Neither did contacts cease on a personal level: the list of Canadians visiting China between 1949 and 1970 includes Prime Minister Trudeau who visited China in 1960. The mystery of China continued to fascinate Canadians despite the lack of diplomatic relations.

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. This decision reflected not only changed public perceptions of the China-recognition issue, but an interest in strengthening relations with the countries of Asia.

Talks between Canada and China, 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. As a result of the negotiations, the Canadian Government recognized the Government of the People's Republic of China, while on the status of Taiwan the communiqué read: "The Chinese Government reaffirms that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China, the Canadian Government takes note of this position of the Chinese Government". Canada's position was, and is, that the Canadian Government neither endorses nor challenges the Chinese Government's position regarding the sovereignty of Taiwan. This formula, or one similar to it, has been used since 1970 by many of the countries which followed Canada's lead in establishing relations with Peking.

The Issue of Taiwan

As a consequence of Canada's agreement to normalize relations with the PRC, diplomatic relations were severed with Taiwan, and all official contacts were terminated. The so-called "Republic of China" (Taiwan) continues to claim that it is the sole legal government of all China, but has suffered increasing diplomatic isolation since 1970. Though Canada has no official contacts with the