



Statements and Speeches

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CANADA AND CHINA -- A LITTLE MUTUAL EDUCATION

A Press Statement by Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau
issued at Peking on October 13, 1973.

My visit to the People's Republic of China was, of course made at the invitation of Premier Chou En-lai. It was first extended over a year ago and renewed early this summer. Considering the importance of China on the world scene and the particular interest Canada has had and continues to have, both in terms of our own commercial relations and in respect of the broader issues of the day, I was very happy to have been able to accept. The discussions that have taken place I think I can describe as extremely warm and indicative of a high order of mutual respect and regard. The results, on which I shall have more to say in a moment, also included a little mutual education. I am hopeful that the Chinese Premier and the Government of the People's Republic of China will have a better understanding of the Canadian point of view even on those issues on which we still differ.

For my part, I have learned a great deal about what underlies China's policies and its actions on the world scene. On bilateral matters, the results we have achieved speak largely for themselves and I shall give the gist of them:

Trade and economics

On the trade and economic side, the Premier and I were pleased to note the favourable development of two-way trade since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1970. Trade between Canada and China has increased considerably both in value and composition. It is expected that Canadian exports to and imports from China will surpass in 1973 the record levels reached in 1972, when two-way trade totalled over \$300 million. We expressed the expectation that our discussions during the past few days would lead to a further development of this trend in 1974, to the mutual benefit of both countries. As a further important step in the development of trade relations, the Premier and I signed a trade agreement that will serve as a framework for the development of trade between Canada and China over the next three years. In the agreement, both sides undertake to endeavour to create favourable conditions for further strengthening the flow of goods between them. The agreement establishes a joint trade committee that will meet annually, and we agreed that a meeting of the committee should take place in early December in Peking. The trade agreement also contains an undertaking by both sides to promote the interchange of persons,
