

## *Canada's Relations with the Republic of Korea*

**K**OREA, a rugged peninsula about the size of Britain, has a recorded history of 2,000 years and a distinguished cultural tradition. Its almost 40 million people, their language and their way of life, are quite distinct from those of neighbouring China and Japan. Canadian missionaries have been active in Korea since the late nineteenth century, but Canada's first official involvement in Korean affairs took place in 1947-8, when it served as a member of the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea. This Commission was set up to supervise elections throughout the country in order to establish an independent democratic government following 35 years of Japanese rule and three of divided U.S. and Soviet occupation. In 1948, the UN-recognized Republic of Korea was established in the southern half of the peninsula, and was recognized by Canada. The authorities in the North — the original Soviet occupation zone — denied UN competency, however, and established a separate Communist regime, which has received neither UN nor Canadian recognition.



*The first resident Ambassador of the Republic of Korea presents his credentials. Left to right: The Honourable Roger Teillet, Minister of Veterans Affairs, His Excellency Mr. Sun Yup Paik, and the Honourable Wilfred Judson of the Supreme Court of Canada.*