

## Japanese Prime Minister makes official visit to Canada

Japan's Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira paid an official visit to Canada from May 4-7 and met with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and other ministers in Ottawa and Vancouver to discuss a variety of bilateral and multilateral issues. It was Mr. Ohira's first visit to Canada as Prime Minister although he has visited Canada before, most recently in 1975.

Prime Minister Ohira addressed a joint session of the House of Commons and Senate on May 5. He was the first Japanese prime minister to do so and it marked the first time a foreign leader has addressed such a session since 1973.

In his speech to Parliament, Mr. Ohira voiced his country's concern for developing new energy resources and called on Canada to join in continued and increased co-ordination of policies affecting both energy and inflation among western nations.

### Bilateral relations increased

In a joint communiqué, the Prime Ministers noted that bilateral relations have expanded in all areas during recent years. They agreed to initiate annual meetings between foreign ministers and to encourage more frequent meetings between trade ministers and other ministers to assist in the search for new areas of economic co-operation.

Both Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Ohira recognized the importance of raw and semi-processed material and food products in the trade of the two countries and they discussed the possibility for

further processing of raw materials in Canada and the prospects of increased Canadian exports of upgraded products, and manufactured and high-technology goods.

Since 1973, Japan has been second only to the United States among Canada's trading partners. The value of trade between the two countries has grown from \$132.3 million in 1953 to \$6.3 billion in 1979. Japan is Canada's largest agricultural market, with farm products (principally rapeseed, grain and pork) accounting for the largest percentage (35 per cent) of Canadian exports to Japan. Japan is also Canada's primary market for coal, while copper, lumber, wood pulp and fish products are also important export items.

The two Prime Ministers renewed their commitment to increasing economic co-operation saying there was still considerable potential to be tapped to the benefit of both economies in the way of investment, joint venture and technological exchange.

### Energy co-operation

The two Prime Ministers also reviewed and discussed the possibilities for expanded co-operation in the energy field between Canada and Japan, including the possible sale of a CANDU reactor. The sale of coal to Japan from northeast British Columbia was also raised and it was noted that discussions to this end are being held between the private sectors of Canada and Japan.

Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Ohira also ex-



*Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Ohira take time out from their talks to stroll in the garden at the Prime Minister's residence.*

pressed their continuing commitment to academic studies and cultural relations. Prime Minister Trudeau said he expected support for the development of Canadian studies in Japan to continue with government funding over the next five years amounting to more than \$1 million. The Japanese Government intends to contribute up to \$500,000 over the next three years for Japanese studies at the Asian Centre at the University of British Columbia.

The two Prime Ministers also discussed a range of international issues, including the hostage situation in Iran, the Soviet armed intervention in Afghanistan and the continuing conflict in Kampuchea.

### Contribution to western provinces

A highlight of the Vancouver portion of the visit was a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Trudeau for Prime Minister Ohira. In a speech presented at the dinner, Prime Minister Trudeau spoke of the "growing importance which Canada attaches to belonging to the Pacific community of nations".

Japan has contributed to the realization of the economic potential of Canada's western provinces by providing a growing market for their natural resources, said Mr. Trudeau.

"It is here [in the West] that Canada's expanding economic relations with Japan are most apparent," he said. "Eighty-five per cent of Canada's exports to Japan come from our four western provinces — with over 50 per cent from British Columbia alone," he said.



*Prime Minister Ohira speaks at a dinner in his honour in Vancouver. Prime Minister Trudeau and Mrs. Ohira are seated at his left.*