

led by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to participate in the fifth Canada-Japan Ministerial Meeting. The first such meeting was held in Tokyo in 1963. At the 1969 meeting, subjects discussed included the general political situation in Asia and the possibilities of international co-operation in Southeast Asia following settlement of the Vietnam conflict, recent developments in nuclear disarmament, the international financial situation and the need for early activation of the system of special drawing rights, international trade (with particular reference to contentious areas in Canada-Japan bilateral trade relations), and methods of improving and expanding existing development assistance programs. Additionally, a number of more specific matters of bilateral interest in the areas of investment policy, fisheries, agriculture and scientific and technical co-operation were discussed. As usual, the 1969 meeting was marked by free and open discussion and exchange of opinions.

The volume of Canada-Japan two-way trade exceeded the \$1,000 million mark for the first time in 1969, making Japan Canada's third most important trading partner. Japan has become a significant source of investment capital for Canada, particularly in natural resource development.

In addition to informal visits to Japan by a number of prominent Canadians, Premier Schreyer of Manitoba visited Japan as a guest of the Japanese Government in October 1969. Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Nobohiko Ushiba visited Canada during the summer, as did Ambassador Toro Hagiwara, Commissioner General of Expo 70.

The visit to Japan of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (conducted by Mr. Seiji Ozawa) in April 1969 was sponsored by the Department of External Affairs in co-operation with the Canada Council; the visit provided a preview of events to take place at the Canadian pavilion at Expo 70 to be held in Osaka, from March 15 to September 13, 1970. Canada will have one of the largest national pavilions and British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec will have pavilions of their own. It is expected that the Band and Musical Ride of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Les Feux Follets, the National Ballet and the Charlottetown cast of *Anne of Green Gables* will all perform during Canada Week (May 24-30) at Expo 70. Prime Minister Trudeau has accepted the invitation of the Japanese Government to visit Japan during Canada Week at Expo 70.

### Indochina

The lack of concrete progress in the Paris talks confirmed earlier expectations that the course of these negotiations would be difficult and slow, but at least the existence of a negotiating forum seemed to hold down the level of hostilities on the ground in Vietnam. Although the conflict continued, its scope and intensity appeared to have been reduced sufficiently to enable President Nixon to announce the first stages in the process of withdrawing U.S. forces, emphasizing the importance of the assumption by the Republic of Vietnam of progressively greater responsibility for the conduct of military operations. In June, the National Liberation Front declared itself a government under the name of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, a move that was generally interpreted as relating essentially to the Paris negotiations and the desire of the Liberation