

External Affairs minister visits People's Republic of China

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan visited the People's Republic of China, August 17-27, at the invitation of Chinese Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs Huang Hua.

Dr. MacGuigan was accompanied by a 23-member Canadian delegation, which included J.H. Taylor, Deputy Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs; Marcel Massé, President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA); Senators Royce Frith and Lowell Murray and members of Parliament Charles Turner, Marcel Prud'homme, Douglas Roche and Robert Ogle.

While in Peking, the minister held discussions with Vice-Premier Huang on international and bilateral questions. International topics covered, included East/West relations, North/South issues, Afghanistan, Kampuchea and Namibia. The two ministers reviewed the positive growth of bilateral relations, including developments in trade, education, science and technology, cultural and sport exchanges, and family reunification. Dr. MacGuigan met with Party Vice-Chairmen Deng Xiaoping and Li Xiannian and also held discussions with Premier Zhao Ziyang and Vice-Premier Bo Yibo. After his discussions in Peking, Dr. MacGuigan travelled to Shaanxi and Sichuan provinces.

At a welcoming banquet hosted by Vice-Premier Huang in Peking, Dr. MacGuigan affirmed that China was a "key element" in Canada's relations with Asia,

and that he had come to "reaffirm this friendship and develop more deeply the modes of co-operation between" the two countries.

Development co-operation

Dr. MacGuigan informed Vice-Premier Huang that, as a result of a recent Cabinet decision, China is eligible for development assistance from Canada. He added that the program would be "modest at the outset — less than \$5 million over the next few months" but said that larger-scale projects might be undertaken later. Dr. MacGuigan indicated that the Canadian International Development Agency would, among other activities, probably finance the vocational training of Chinese experts in Canada in a number of fields, such as retail trade, mining, agriculture and manufacturing. It was agreed that detailed discussions would be held between officials of both sides to work out the mechanics of a development assistance program.

Private claims agreement

During his visit, agreement was also reached on a settlement of private claims involving compensation for property of Canadians expropriated following the establishment of the People's Republic in 1949. Under the agreement, China will pay \$340,000 in settlement. Claims from Canadian businesses and individuals are estimated at \$1 million.

Trade

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the growth of bilateral trade which in 1980 reached \$1.1 billion. This is an increase from over-all trade totals of \$227 million ten years ago when China and Canada established diplomatic relations. On the question of the balance in bilateral trade, which is heavily weighted in Canada's favour, Dr. MacGuigan said that it would be difficult for China to bring its trade into complete equilibrium because of its large commodity imports from Canada. He added, however, that Canada had adopted policies designed to help China increase its exports to Canada.

In addition to official discussions, during his stay in Peking Dr. MacGuigan made an address to the Chinese Law Society entitled "Canada, China and the Rule of Law".

In his speech, Dr. MacGuigan noted that Canada and China had worked

"closely and constructively" at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. He said that since both China and Canada occupy large land masses and have long coastlines they "must inevitably be concerned with the protection of their environmental integrity, which necessarily also implies the protection of the environment of areas beyond national jurisdiction".

The minister added that Canada and China "have also been effective partners in the elaboration of the emerging new law of the sea".

"We have contributed to state practice and the evolution of customary law, which now recognizes, for instance, the 12-mile territorial sea and the 200-mile economic zone. We have supported the concept that the resources of the international seabed area are the common heritage of mankind. We are committed to the successful conclusion of the Law of the Sea Conference. And we know that a comprehensive, universal treaty is indispensable to international order and stability," he said.

Dr. MacGuigan also commented favourably on recent legal developments in China, such as the promulgation of a criminal code and the re-establishment of the Ministry of Justice and noted that the rule of law is a guarantee of individual protection that transcends political systems.

Microelectronic technology boosted

Six Canadian universities will receive government funding over the next five years to establish consulting services advising industry on the application of microelectronics technology.

The six universities, which will receive \$1 million each, are: University of Sherbrooke, University of Toronto, University of Manitoba, University of Alberta, University of British Columbia and a university in the Atlantic region to be selected.

The government will also pay companies up to \$10,000 toward the cost of a consultant's study, and up to \$100,000 towards the cost of implementing the consultant's recommendations. Manufacturers will be eligible for one-time assistance only.

The purpose of the program is to encourage manufacturers to obtain the benefits of productivity and competitiveness that may be available through the application of microelectronics.



Dr. MacGuigan views artifacts at museum during his visit to China.