

East Asia

China

Relations between Canada and China continued to improve and develop during 1976.

During the year the total value of trade was somewhat below the 1974 record level, when exports to China were \$438 million and imports from China were \$61 million. Partly owing to an improved yield in Chinese domestic wheat production, the export of Canadian wheat was reduced, which brought the value of total exports down to \$169 million for the first nine months of the year. Imports from the People's Republic of China (PRC) increased to \$64 million during the same period. The Canada-China Joint Trade Committee met in Peking in the spring to consider the entire range of Sino-Canadian trade relations, including the prospects for increasing the export of non-grain items. On October 13 the Canada-China Trade Agreement was extended for another three years.

Indicative of the widening scope of Sino-Canadian relations were the technical and commercial exchanges that occurred during 1976. Among these was the visit to Canada by a group of Chinese map-makers who came to study Canadian techniques of cartography and surveying. A delegation of Canadian geophysical surveyors visited China as part of the same program. Other examples of the exchanges conducted in 1976 were the visit to Canada by a delegation from the PRC Metals Society to study Canadian mining techniques, and the visit to China of photographic technicians to discuss recent developments in colour-processing.

Cultural exchanges were also an important part of Canada's bilateral relations with China. In August, the Chinese Vice-Minister of Public Health led a delegation to Canada to take part in the ceremonial opening of the Bethune Memorial House at Gravenhurst, Ontario, the birthplace of Dr. Norman Bethune, who died a hero of the army of Mao Tse-tung while working as a doctor and medical teacher during the second Sino-Japanese War. A team of four journalists from Chinese radio and television toured Canada during July and

August and covered the opening of Bethune House.

In June, a Cape Breton miners' choir, The Men of the Deeps, gave a series of concerts in China. During the year, preparations were made for a number of musical and artistic exchanges, including a visit to Canada by the Shanghai Ballet in the spring of 1977 and a tour of China by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and an accompanying CBC film crew in 1978. The University of Toronto's Blues Hockey Team travelled to the PRC in December for a series of exhibition games.

Academic exchanges are also conducted between China and Canada. Under the official program in 1976, 25 Canadian students studied in China and 30 Chinese studied in Canada. Final preparations were also made for an exchange of professors between Canada and China, to begin during the winter of 1977.

Vietnam

On July 2, 1976, the unification of Vietnam was officially accomplished with the proclamation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Canada was not asked to recognize the new state formally, since it was considered that relations with the unified Vietnam were a continuation of the relations that had obtained with previous governments of North and South Vietnam.

In September, a delegation led by Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Hoang Luong visited Canada for talks on a wide range of bilateral and multilateral topics. As a result of these discussions, the Government of Vietnam sent a mission to Ottawa in November to establish a resident embassy. Because of the Government's austerity program, Canada will not be opening an embassy in Hanoi in the immediate future; instead, the Canadian Ambassador to the People's Republic of China will remain accredited to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Current issues of mutual interest include the reuniting of Vietnamese now living in Canada with members of their families from Vietnam, trade and economic co-operation, and humanitarian assistance to Vietnam.