

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Hon. Mitchell Sharp, announced today that his official visit to China at the invitation of the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Chi Peng Fei, will begin on August 15. Mr. Sharp, accompanied by Mr. Paul St. Pierre, Parliamentary Assistant to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and Mr. Bruce Howard, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, will arrive in Canton by train from Hong Kong. He will spend his first night in Canton, the capital city of the province from which came the families of many Canadians of Chinese origin. On August 16 Mr. Sharp and his party will fly to Peking and will receive an official welcome by the Foreign Minister of China, Mr. Chi Peng Fei. During the next four days Mr. Sharp will have talks with Foreign Minister Chi Peng Fei and other Chinese leaders, visit the memorial erected by the Chinese Government in honour of the Canadian surgeon Dr. Norman Bethune at Shi-Chia-Chuang, and visit some of the historic and cultural sites in the vicinity of Peking. On August 21, Mr. Sharp will officially open the Canadian Government Trade Exposition which will be held in Peking from August 21 until September 2. Over 200 Canadian industrial firms from all across Canada will be exhibitors in this exposition and more than 500 Canadian businessmen will be attending it.

Following his visit to Peking, Mr. Sharp and his party will visit Shanghai and Hangchow. He will then depart from Canton on August 24 for Hong Kong, and leave Hong Kong directly for Canada on the next day.