

PRESS RELEASE



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JOINT COMMUNIQUE
OF THE FIFTH MEETING
OF THE CANADA-JAPAN MINISTERIAL MEETING

The fifth meeting of the Canada-Japan Ministerial Committee was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tokyo, on April 17 and 18, 1969. Japan was represented by the Honourable Kiichi Aichi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Takeo Fukuda, Minister of Finance, the Honourable Shiro Hasegawa, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, the Honourable Masayoshi Ohira, Minister of International Trade and Industry, the Honourable Wataro Kanno, Minister of State and Director-General for Economic Planning, and Mr. Osamu Itagaki, Ambassador to Canada. Canada was represented by the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Edgar J. Benson, Minister of Finance, the Honourable Jean-Luc Pépin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Honourable Jack Davis, Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, the Honourable Horace A. Olson, Minister of Agriculture and Mr. Herbert O. Moran, Ambassador to Japan.

The Ministers reviewed the general international situation with emphasis on the situation in Asia, including Vietnam and China. The Ministers expressed their concern over the continuation of the Vietnam conflict, and strongly hoped that the talks now being held in Paris would promptly lead to a peaceful settlement of the problem. The Ministers also recognized that, after peace is restored in Vietnam, the broadest possible international cooperation would be needed to secure the peace and attain the prosperity of this region, and agreed that the two countries would

continue to consult closely with each other on the possible role they might play for this purpose. Recognizing that the peace and prosperity of Asia have an important bearing on the peace and prosperity of the entire world, they agreed that the individual and cooperative efforts of developing Asian nations to improve their well-being need to be complemented by economic and technical assistance from the advanced countries. In this regard, Canada and Japan will spare no effort further to strengthen the close consultation and cooperation already existing between the two countries through the organizations such as the A.D.B.

While welcoming the conclusion of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty as an important step towards nuclear disarmament, the Ministers expressed their concern about the continuation of the arms race and urged the major powers and the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee to renew their efforts to reverse this trend both through bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

In their review of the economic situations of Japan and Canada, the Committee noted with satisfaction that the Japanese and Canadian economies continue to expand steadily, although measures to attain price stability remain necessary in both countries.

They also discussed the international financial situation. They agreed that the early activation of the system of special drawing rights would contribute substantially to the necessary strengthening of the international monetary system.

The Committee discussed major developments in international trade, including East-West trade. In noting that the implementation of the tariff reductions of the Kennedy Round was proceeding on schedule, the Committee emphasized the importance of full implementation of all the results of the negotiations and the need to maintain momentum leading towards further international liberalization of all barriers to trade in both industrial and agricultural products. The Committee reaffirmed the importance each of the two countries attaches to the International Grains Arrangement, which is in the interests of both importing and exporting countries. The Committee expressed concern about protectionist moves which would frustrate efforts for freer trade. The Committee also reviewed the role which export credits and financing play in international trade.

The Ministers discussed the expansion of their respective development assistance programmes which is envisaged. The Committee took note of the importance of the development and prosperity of Asia. In emphasizing the importance they attach to economic progress in the developing world, the Ministers recognized that, in the trade field, an early implementation of the general preferential tariff system is desirable. They agreed that the two governments should continue their cooperation leading toward such a system, in which the burden of adjustment should be equitably shared among the developed countries.

The Committee noted the continuing increase in Canadian-Japanese trade since their last meeting and recorded their expectation that with increasingly close economic relations, this trade expansion would continue. Canadian Ministers expressed their strong interest in diversifying Canadian exports, which are heavily concentrated in primary foodstuffs and industrial raw materials. While welcoming the Japanese Government's announcement of plans for the gradual elimination of import restrictions, they urged Japanese Ministers to take careful and early account of the Canadian interest in liberalization of particular products now under restriction. The Committee reviewed the voluntary restraints placed on the export of some Japanese products to Canada. Japanese Ministers expressed their views that these restraints should be kept to the minimum and be removed as soon as possible. The Committee then examined the new Canadian anti-dumping and related legislation.

The Committee recognized that trade flows can be enhanced by capital investment and noted the useful role it has played in the trade between Canada and Japan. Canadian Ministers stressed the importance of early and more extensive liberalization of capital investment in Japan.

The Ministers explored common interests in the agricultural field and in particular the possibilities for expanding trade in agricultural products and increasing technical cooperation and liaison between Canada and Japan in this field. The Ministers discussed problems related to Pacific fisheries, including cooperation in measures of conservation, and agreed to give further consideration to other fishery matters of bilateral concern such as scientific and technical cooperation in the utilization of resources.

The Committee welcomed the growing cooperation and exchanges between the two countries in many fields, such as the current tour of Japan by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. The Ministers expressed interest in further cultural exchanges. Moreover, the Canadian Ministers indicated the desirability of closer scientific and technological links, which would reinforce and broaden relations between Canada and Japan, and the Japanese Ministers noted that the matter would be studied in detail.

In the course of their stay in Japan, Canadian Ministers, at the invitation of the Japanese Government, visited the site of Expo '70 at Osaka, where Canada and the Provinces of British Columbia, Ontario and Québec will have pavilions. Canadian Ministers extended their best wishes for the success of Expo '70 and Japanese Ministers thanked Canada for its extensive participation and cooperation.

The programme of the Ministerial Committee included separate meetings between Japanese and Canadian Ministers with corresponding portfolios, at which detailed discussions took place on questions of mutual interest.

The Ministers agreed that the fifth meeting of the Committee had proved useful in providing for exchange of views between the two sides on many matters of mutual concern and had thereby contributed to the increasingly close relations between Japan and Canada. The Committee accepted the invitation of the Canadian Government to hold its next meeting in Canada.