



news release

Date

For release April 9, 1987.

No. 063

A CANADIAN STRATEGY FOR CHINA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, the Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Pat Carney, and the Minister for External Relations, the Honourable Monique Landry have announced today that Cabinet recently adopted a strategy intended to ensure a focussed, coordinated and dynamic approach to Canada's relations with the People's Republic of China.

Mr. Clark said that the strategy is designed to ensure that Canada meets the opportunities and challenges flowing from China's "Open Door" and modernization policies which were recently reaffirmed by the Chinese leadership.

The plan of action put forward in the Canadian strategy for China builds upon the major achievements in Canada's relationship with the People's Republic of China, especially the measures taken by the government in the past two years. These include the establishment of annual high level political consultations, targetting China as a priority market in the National Trade Strategy, the opening of a Canadian Consulate General in Shanghai and the initiatives announced by the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney when he visited Beijing in May 1986: the doubling of the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) bilateral development program in China and the establishment of a concessional financing facility for China through the Export Development Corporation (EDC).

.../2

The strategy targets ministerial visits to China towards priority government objectives; proposes to enhance the dialogue with the Chinese government on key Asian strategic concerns and on global arms control issues; establishes an institutional framework to ensure that Canada's strategy towards China is based upon a national consensus; lays the foundation for sectoral action plans designed to match Canadian capabilities with Chinese economic priorities; builds upon the expanding bilateral assistance program to promote shared development and economic interests in China; directs EDC and CIDA, respectively, to pursue co-financing arrangements with international financing institutions.

The strategy furthermore sets a basis for the negotiations leading to Chinese entry into the GATT in a way that meets Canadian trade policy objectives; decides that existing governmental resources will be increasingly directed to expanding academic, cultural, professional, sports, media and other exchange programs with China; recognizes the need for a simplification of visa and consular processes with China to facilitate people-to-people contacts; and calls for an expanded program of defence relations.

Mr. Clark indicated that the strategy will be implemented in close consultation with the provinces, the business community and other groups which have an active interest in Canada-China relations.