

# Canada Weekly

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## Prime Minister's visit to Europe strengthens bilateral relations



Bob Cooper

*President François Mitterrand of France (left) and Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau at the entrance of the palais de l'Élysée in Paris.*

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau returned to Ottawa November 16 after an official visit to France and West Germany and a trip to the USSR to attend the funeral of Soviet President and Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev.

During the visit Mr. Trudeau met with leaders in each of the countries to discuss areas of concern and extend bilateral co-operation between their respective countries and Canada.

### France

The desire to strengthen economic co-operation between Canada and France was one of the main elements in Mr. Trudeau's visit to that country. In a news conference in Paris, he said that Canada and France could look forward to fruitful and industrial co-operation and that his visit had "renewed bonds of friendship between Ottawa and Paris". At a meeting of the Canada-France Chamber of Commerce, attended by representatives of some 20 Canadian firms, Mr. Trudeau

announced that the two governments had agreed to create a joint committee of businessmen to explore ways of furthering trade and investment. The group will be led by former Quebec Finance Minister Raymond Garneau.

In Lille in northern France, Mr. Trudeau was welcomed by French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, who is also Mayor of Lille, on November 8. The two prime ministers took part in pre-Remembrance Day ceremonies at the war memorial at Vimy, some 40 kilometres away. Many Canadian soldiers were killed in the battle of Vimy Ridge during the First World War. Veterans Affairs ministers of both countries — Bennett Campbell of Canada and Jean Laurian of France — participated in the ceremonies which included a fly past by a squadron of Canadian Armed Forces CF-104s.

"It is here that French and Canadian soldiers sealed a pact of friendship between our two countries with their blood," said Mr. Trudeau. "And it is



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