

The Canada-Germany and Canada-France joint cultural commissions met in 1990; similar cultural consultations were held with the Netherlands. Canada signed an accord on museums with France and approached a number of European countries with a view to negotiating other agreements for heritage protection through the promotion of museums. To ensure expansion of film and television cooperation with Europe, Canada promoted the need for coproductions while preparing compatible legislation for the European Single Market. In the audio-visual area, TV5, the Francophone network in which Canada is a major partner, continued to expand across Europe giving wider distribution to Canadian television programs in most of its countries.

Cultural exchanges added depth and intensity to Canadian diplomatic activity in Europe. Through the support of the Department, Canadian orchestras, singers, dance and theatre companies, painters, film makers and writers all made successful European tours, thus enriching Canada's image as a

creative country contributing actively to the quality of life worldwide. By helping Canadian artists to carve themselves a niche in European artistic circles, the Department also stimulated the export of Canadian cultural products such as books, films, disks and videos.

The Europe-wide Canadian Studies Conference held in The Hague, October 24 - 27, 1990, showed just how dynamic the European Canadian Studies associations have become. The Department maintained its support by fellowship programs, chairs, research projects, book and journal gifts, and grants, to further the activities of some 30 centres of Canadian Studies throughout Europe. In addition to providing courses on Canada in a large number of universities, the Canadian Studies Program contributed toward creating a network of European teachers and researchers who specialize in Canadian affairs including history, geography, economics, sociology, political science and literature, and who are presenting Canadian realities with growing effectiveness.

THE SOVIET UNION AND CENTRAL/ EASTERN EUROPE

Canada's support for peaceful political and economic reform in the U.S.S.R. and Central/Eastern Europe has been unwavering. A series of high-level bilateral meetings, business ventures and cultural exchanges was designed to expand on existing contacts and to further improve relations.

November 1990 saw the first visit to the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic by a Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, followed immediately by Mr. Clark's working visit to the U.S.S.R. Canada received a wide range of visitors from the region, including President Gorbachev, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Czech and Slovak President Vaclav Havel, and Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis.

Keeping pace with decentralization in the U.S.S.R., Canada broadened its representation by appointing a Consul General to Kiev in January 1991.

The 14 agreements signed during the Prime Minister's November 1989 visit to the U.S.S.R. have resulted in many mutually beneficial contacts. Good progress has been made by joint environmental Working Groups which have concentrated their

efforts on the northern regions of Canada and the U.S.S.R. Native people from both countries have met to discuss common problems and interests, and to find common solutions.

The highlight of the Military Exchanges Program was the visit of three Canadian ships to the Soviet Pacific port of Vladivostok, the first by a Western navy since 1936. The agreement on police cooperation has been very successful; the Soviet Union was admitted to Interpol at the Ottawa conference in 1990.

In response to the killing of civilians by the Soviet military in Lithuania and Latvia in January 1991, Canada suspended its offer of technical assistance to the U.S.S.R. and of a new \$150-million Export Development Corporation (EDC) line of credit for the purchase of food. In addition to these economic measures, Canada also invoked the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe's Human Dimension mechanism, as it did in response to the political repression in Kosovo, Yugoslavia, in 1990.