

Canadian imports to Western Europe by country

(in thousands of dollars)

	January – December		
	1981	1982	1983
United Kingdom	2 385 735	1 903 948	1 809 806
Gibraltar	76	2	–
Ireland	117 898	128 787	107 266
Malta	2 125	2 679	2 263
Austria	90 471	91 891	108 103
Belgium-Luxemburg	296 926	263 532	296 024
Denmark	159 448	129 023	136 925
Finland	97 248	96 424	75 763
France	878 587	876 957	840 977
Germany West	1 609 836	1 383 950	1 576 555
Greece	54 148	30 302	44 119
Iceland	6 511	4 931	3 234
Italy	702 637	724 848	798 389
Netherlands	296 455	267 295	349 382
Norway	169 137	92 684	313 517
Portugal	53 005	43 705	58 337
Spain	237 723	190 060	181 945
Sweden	445 249	365 764	415 843
Switzerland	424 013	429 558	408 161
Cyprus	1 463	445	353
Turkey	10 946	11 646	12 809
Total	8 039 637	7 038 431	7 539 771

USSR and Eastern Europe

East-West relations were put to severe test during the past year. The general downturn in trust and confidence was aggravated by the Soviet withdrawal from both the Intermediate Range Nuclear Force Talks (INF) and the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START). Further, the destruction of the Korean airliner, killing all 269 passengers including ten Canadians, resulted in international outrage.

In the face of increasing alienation of East from West, the Prime Minister undertook a wide-ranging peace initiative in the autumn of 1983, designed to engage political leaders in a constructive dialogue between East and West and to explore ways to rebuild a climate of co-operation and understanding (see also Chapter 5). He met with President Reagan and USSR General Secretary Chernenko, as well as with leaders in the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia and Romania. Canadian proposals on ways to improve the conduct of East-West relations, including a statement of ten basic

principles, were well received. While progress was expected to be slow, there was new hope that both sides could overcome the distrust which has plagued relations since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Canada has long been a strong advocate of keeping open the essential political dialogue between East and West in the belief that this could contribute to stability. A parliamentary exchange during the year was but one element of the continuing dialogue between Canada and the East European countries. Soviet Politbureau member Mikhail Gorbachev visited Canada in May 1983, and in August House of Commons Speaker Jeanne Sauv  led a parliamentary delegation in a reciprocal visit to the Soviet Union. A special emissary of President Ceausescu, as well as the Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited Canada during the year. The construction of new chanceries in Belgrade and Budapest, which neared completion during the year, were evidence of the growth of Canada's bilateral relationships with Yugoslavia and Hungary.