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The Francophone Countries

Belgium

Capital:	Brussels
Population:	Nearly 10 million
Head of State:	King Baudoin I
Head of Government:	Wilfried Martens
Minister of Foreign Affairs:	Léo Tindemans
Economy:	Steel, textiles, chemicals, glass, shipbuilding, agriculture

Canada/Belgium Relations: Belgium is one of Canada's main European partners in all areas and among our largest export markets. Our sales to the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) rank with those to France and Italy. In 1984, our exports to the BLEU were valued at \$677 million, and our imports at \$488 million. The major event in our trade relations with Belgium in 1984-85 was the signing of a \$50 million contract between Bombardier and the Belgian army. Belgium is our second most important partner in the Western Francophone community. The evidence of our strong bilateral ties includes Belgian participation in Expo 86, the signing in May 1984 of a social security agreement, the signing of an aviation agreement in October 1985 and the activities of the joint cultural commission in October 1985. In December 1985, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, reviewed our bilateral relations with his Belgian counterpart.

His Excellency Wilfried Martens: Born in 1936. Doctor of law. Lawyer. Member of the Flemish Christian Social Party. Elected to parliament in 1974. Played an important role in the European Christian Democratic Union. Prime Minister since 1979.