

Canada in November for the meeting of the Joint Governmental Commission for the Promotion of Trade and Economic Co-operation. On the political side, the 1981 round of consultations was held in Ottawa in October and reflected the interests of Canada and Romania in East-West issues and of frequent co-operation in international fora. The Romanian side was led by a vice foreign minister. A parliamentary delegation under the leadership of the Speaker of the Senate visited Romania in May.

During 1981, negotiations continued on both a consular convention and a civil aviation agreement. Planning began for the first meeting of the Canada-Romania Joint Commission on Agricultural Co-operation.

Relations with Czechoslovakia were highlighted by the visit of the Minister of State for Trade to Prague in May, which enhanced Canada's trading image in that country. In October, the Minister of National Defence, in his capacity of alternate Minister for Veterans Affairs, led a delegation to honour Canadian war dead buried in Czechoslovakia. The Minister, while he was in Prague, was received by the Prime Minister and engaged in discussions with Czechoslovak leaders. Canadian-Czechoslovak political consultations to review bilateral and international issues were also held in Prague early in the year.

Relations with Bulgaria were marked by the visit of the Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister to Ottawa in October for a round of political consultations. Later that month, a Canadian delegation went to Sofia to discuss trade. Agreement was also reached on the settlement of Canadian claims arising out of certain outstanding Bulgarian bonded debts, and discussions were initiated for an exchange of notes on cultural relations.

Canada's relationship with the German Democratic Republic, although not extensive, took some steps forward in 1981. Political consultations took place in East Berlin in February and, as evidence of an interest in Canada which could lead to increased exchanges between scientists and academics, members of the GDR academic community attended the annual Gummersbach Conference on Canadian Studies in the German-speaking Countries. A bilateral trade agreement, which was initialled in September, signalled the possibilities for future economic co-operation.

Canada's substantial interest in Yugoslavia originates from that country's strategic importance, its role in the Non-Aligned Movement and the North-South dialogue and the presence in Canada of more than 150,000 Canadians of Yugoslav origin. At present, trade is an important element of the bilateral relationship. Both Canada and Yugoslavia are exerting efforts to expand co-operation in other areas such as culture, science and technology, and agriculture.

The year 1981 was one of frequent high level contacts between the two countries. In March, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources led a delegation to Yugoslavia for a seminar on Canadian nuclear technology. In April, the Yugoslav Minister of Foreign