
ITALY

Prime Minister Ciriaco De Mita

Ciriaco De Mita was born on February 2, 1928 near Avellino in the south of Italy. Following his secondary education, Mr. De Mita was awarded a scholarship to the Catholic University of Milan where he obtained a degree in Law.

Mr. De Mita joined the Christian Democratic Party (CD) in the 1950s and he was elected national advisor of the CD in 1956. In 1962, having served in other public functions at the regional level, he became Secretary of his party for the region of Campania.

Elected Deputy for the first time in 1963, Mr. De Mita has been re-elected in every subsequent election. From 1968-1969 he was Under-Secretary for Regional Affairs. From 1969-1973, Mr. De Mita was Associate Secretary General of the CD. Then, from July 1973 to January 1979 he directed, in succession, the ministries of Industry, Foreign Trade and Southern Italy in six different cabinets. In 1979, he was re-elected Associate Secretary General of the CD where he served until 1982 when he became Secretary General. He occupied this position until last February. He has been President of the Council (Prime Minister) since April 1988.

Toronto was Prime Minister De Mita's first economic summit. In Paris, he will be accompanied by the Italian Foreign Minister, Giulio Andreotti, and the Minister of the Treasury, Giuliano Amato. His personal representative is Ambassador Umberto Vattani.

Canada — Italy Relations

The Italian-Canadian community of nearly one million provides considerable support for Canada's vigorous relationship with Italy. The community accounts in large measure for tourism from Canada to Italy and was a dominant factor in the conclusion of the bilateral Social Security Agreement in 1979 and the Cultural Accord in 1984.

Two-way trade increased from \$2.5 billion in 1987 to a little more than \$2.9 billion in 1988. Italian exports to Canada reached \$2 billion while Canadian exports to Italy rose to \$995 million in 1988 from \$836 million in 1987. The Canadian trade imbalance, therefore, remained approximately at its current level of \$1 billion.

Three important trade and industrial missions to Italy have taken place in the past two years. Canada signed a protocol of cooperation with the Italian National Office of Hydrocarbons (ENI) in 1987. As well, the Italian Corporation ANSALDO Transporti (IRI Group) and the Canadian UTDC Company (Lavalin Group) entered into an agreement that provides for technological exchanges in the area of transportation. Finally, an economic and industrial cooperation agreement was signed on August 1, 1988.