

Canadian representatives, at both the federal and provincial levels, helped to improve co-operation and exchanges in several fields, including cultural affairs, education, health and welfare, industry and commerce.

Italy

Canada continued during 1972 to enjoy excellent relations with Italy and to further the close working relations arising from joint membership in NATO and other shared interests. In August 1972, Canada and Italy took steps to reinforce their existing air links by amending and broadening the bilateral Air Agreement of 1960. An agreement on defence production and research was also concluded during the year. Bilateral trade reached an all-time high, thus adding to the already substantial ties between the two countries. Canada maintained its endeavours to increase its exports of manufactured goods to Italy, where the demand is rapidly growing. Although Canada still attracts Italian immigrants, the downward trend in the flow from Italy continued in 1972 for economic and other reasons. Since early 1972, a Quebec official has been stationed in Rome as adviser-counsellor to immigrants destined to that province and, in May, the Quebec Minister of Immigration met with Italian officials in Rome to discuss common concerns. In April, the Assistant Deputy Minister (Immigration) headed a Canadian federal delegation to Italy to confer about immigration and social security matters with Italian officials. These discussions were followed in July by the visit to Rome of the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Munro.

Turkey, Greece, Spain and Portugal

Canada's links with Turkey gained added significance as the result of agreements between the Export Development Corporation and the Turkish authorities relating to substantial Canadian participation in industrial and communication projects in that country. In December, the Turkish Minister of Communications visited Canada in this connection. Collaboration between the two countries continued, particularly within the NATO framework.

Canadian relations with Greece were pursued both in the commercial field and in the context of NATO. Canadian public opinion continued to pay close attention to the evolution of Greek affairs.

Relations between Canada and Spain, which had progressed the previous year, continued to develop in 1972. A fisheries agreement was signed by both governments in December. The Montreal Institute of Cardiology assisted in the development of a cardio-vascular centre at Madrid, under an agreement signed at Quebec on May 12, 1972. The development of trade relations between Canada and Spain is particularly encouraging. In less than five years the volume of our commercial exchanges with that country has more than doubled.

A similar expansion marked the development of Canada's trade relations with Portugal. Canadian exports to that country during the past four years have shown an annual increase of 15 percent. Although Portuguese immigration to Canada declined slightly in 1972, forecasts for 1973 suggest that it should soon return to the level of growth sustained since 1968.

Northwestern Europe

The four original applicants for accession to the Treaty of Rome (Britain, Ireland, Denmark and Norway) are located in this area. Because of the implications for Canada of the enlargement of the EEC, there was particular interest in those aspects of Canada's relation with the countries of Northwestern Europe which relate to economic exchanges and institutions. In addition, relations with these countries continued to be close both in the bilateral context and in connection with numerous interests and preoccupations which Canada shares with them in the field of international affairs, involving co-operation at NATO and the United Nations.

Britain

Bilateral relations between Canada and the United Kingdom have been changing in recent years. Some of the factors of change include Britain's shift in social