

Eastern Europe

Canada continued to develop its relations with the countries of Eastern Europe at various levels during 1977.

There were no high-level visits between the Canadian and Soviet Governments during the year, though consultations continued at lower levels. The development of trade retained its importance to both countries and the goals set out in the 1976 Long-Term Economic Agreement were followed up in 1977. A large trade mission from Quebec visited the U.S.S.R. and Alberta's Premier Lougheed led a group of businessmen to the Soviet Union in June. The aim of Mr Lougheed's trip was to promote trade and to familiarize Soviet officials with what Canada, and in particular Alberta, had to offer in various economic areas.

Teams from Canada and the U.S.S.R. competed in a broad variety of sports, including hockey, swimming and skating under the Agreement on the Principles of Co-operation in Sport. Exchanges of graduate students, scientists and researchers continued under the Canada-U.S.S.R. General Exchanges Agreement. A new development during 1977 was the visit of the Festival Singers of Toronto to the U.S.S.R. on a direct-exchange basis; the Moscow Chamber Choir was to perform in Canada early in 1978. Tours were also made during the year by a number of other artists on a commercial basis. Karen Kain and Frank Augustyn of Canada's National Ballet performed in several Soviet cities and danced with the Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow. Several Soviet artists visited Canada. The highlight of the program of exchanges was the tour by the Moscow Circus in the fall of 1977. A selection of works by Canada's Group of Seven, which was shown in Moscow, in Kiev and at the Hermitage in Leningrad, was well received by Soviet audiences.

Canada's contacts with Poland in 1977 included a number of ministerial and other senior-level visits. In April, Marc Lalonde, then Minister of National Health and Welfare, visited Poland, where he met Prime Minister Jaroszewicz and the Ministers of Health and Social Services and of Labour. His visit, which followed a visit to Canada by a Polish health mission, laid the groundwork for a Canadian health mission to Poland and the preliminary drawing-up of an interministerial memorandum of understanding concerning health.

These negotiations were pursued by Canadian health officials in meeting with their counterparts in Warsaw, Krakow and Poznan later in the year. Jerzy Olszewski, Polish Minister of Foreign Trade and Maritime Economy, visited Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec City in April. He met with Prime Minister Trudeau, had discussions with Jean Chrétien, then Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and signed a new three-year grains agreement and a letter of intent to purchase four multi-purpose cargo-liners from Canada. The value of these agreements was about \$380 million. A large Quebec trade mission, led by the Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, spent a week in Poland in September. Canadian officials attending the annual Canada-Poland trade consultations held in December in Warsaw were headed by a senior Assistant Deputy Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

The Minister of Fitness and Amateur Sport, Iona Campagnolo, met with Polish sports officials in Warsaw in May and signed a memorandum of understanding intended to foster sports co-operation between Canada and Poland. André Ouellet, Minister of State for Urban Affairs, visited Warsaw in June for discussions with Polish officials, and Roméo Leblanc, Minister of the Environment and Fisheries, attended meetings on bilateral fisheries matters in October.

In May, a Deputy Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs participated in political consultations in Warsaw. A Canadian science and technology delegation met with Polish officials in Warsaw and Krakow to discuss means of furthering Canada-Poland co-operation over a broad range of scientific areas. Negotiations on a bilateral consular convention continued alternately in Canada and Poland. In July, Poland established a consulate-general in Toronto. In the cultural field, the McGill Chamber Orchestra made a concert tour of Poland in December.

A number of fresh steps were taken during 1977 in the development of relations between Canada and the German Democratic Republic. The first Ambassador to Canada from the