

Minister makes European visit

Pierre De Bané, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion and Adviser for Franco-phone Affairs to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, made an official visit to Europe last month.

Belgian visit

Mr. De Bané's first stop was in Belgium, where he met with Jean-Maurice Dehousse, Minister for the Walloon Region, Michel Hansenne, Minister for the French Community and Gaston Geens, Minister for the Flemish Community.

The discussions led to agreements in principle on exchanges of government officials to examine the possibility of greater cultural and economic co-operation.

On the cultural side, Mr. De Bané agreed with Mr. Hansenne to study the possibilities for co-operation with regard to machine translation, the terminology bank and the subsidization of publishing.

The emphasis during the Canadian minister's discussions with Mr. Dehousse was on the regional policy of the Canadian government and the role of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. They discussed four possible areas of co-operation: localization of businesses; the Belgian system of regional development corporations; the textile and iron and steel sectors; and general co-ordination of sectoral and regional policies. The two ministers agreed on an exchange of government officials to examine further these areas of co-operation.

Regional development corporations, the harbour system and localization of industries were the main subjects discussed by Mr. De Bané and Mr. Geens. In the cultural field, they discussed terminology banks and machine translation. A more detailed study is expected to be prepared on these questions.

Canada-Belgium prize

Mr. De Bané attended the ceremony in which the Canada-Belgium Literary Prize for 1980 was awarded to Quebec author Victor-Lévy Beaulieu, who has written *Pour saluer Victor Hugo* (1971), *Jack Kérouac* (1972), *Monsieur Melville* (1979) and *Una* (1980), among others.

The Canada-Belgium Prize is awarded each year on an alternating basis to a Canadian author and a Belgian author

for their work as a whole.

While in Brussels, the Canadian minister also visited the headquarters of the European Economic Community, where he met Antonio Giolitti, the commissioner responsible for regional policy.

The two ministers discussed the program of the EEC and the directions it was presently taking, and emphasized the importance of regional development for Canada and for the EEC alike. They said they would like to see a greater exchange of information in this area between Canada and the EEC.

Visit to France

Mr. De Bané travelled from Belgium to France, where he attended the congress of the France-Canada Association, held in Rouen.

More than 250 attended the annual congress, where a number of regional committees met to discuss new projects and to co-ordinate their efforts with the national headquarters of the association in Paris.

A delegation of about 15 Canadians also attended the meeting.

While in Rouen, Mr. De Bané met Jean Lecanuet, the senator and mayor of the city.

Later, in an address delivered to the congress, Mr. De Bané said the Canadian government encouraged and supported the work of the association, which is intended to develop friendship between the French and Canadian people.

The minister said that in choosing the subject "Getting to know Canada" as its theme, the congress had given a clear indication of its objectives, and that without a mutual awareness no friendship could exist. To learn more about Canada, the association has organized friendship missions to Quebec, Acadia and Ontario, and this year plans to visit British Columbia. "You have an open-minded attitude towards Canada and all its regions, and I admire the fact that your curiosity and interest in my country is not limited to certain regions only," said Mr. De Bané.

"Of course, contacts are made and close ties are formed much more readily among those who share a common language. To me it makes sense that French should be the medium for exchanges between our countries, and that your attention should be focused primarily on those in Canada who speak French, regardless of their ethnic or racial origin," he said.

"The co-operation that we have ex-

perienced in the past continues to exist, and, looking towards the future, I see many more areas in which the people of France and the people of Canada will have occasion to work side by side to protect and to promote those ideas that we both feel are important for the future," concluded Mr. De Bané.

Forestry industry could mushroom

Canada's forest growth and yield could be increased by a minimum of 50 per cent over the next 25 years, said Environment Minister John Roberts in a recent address to the Canadian Institute of Forestry in Vancouver.

The 50 per cent figure is a goal endorsed by the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers, but it can only be attained through greater efforts in forest renewal, research and manpower training, said Mr. Roberts.

The federal government is examining policy options to strengthen the Canadian forest sector, said the minister. A paper forming the basis for a federal forestry action plan, soon to go before Cabinet, will focus on forest renewal and supporting activities such as research, professional manpower requirements, enhanced protection from fire and insects, marketing and new product development.

"We are going to need numbers of highly-trained professionals far in excess of those now being brought on stream," said Mr. Roberts, adding that a suggested target for the 1990s is one management forester for every 40,000 hectares of productive forest land. This is one of the items to be addressed within the package.

The minister also said programs of conservation and forest renewal on Indian lands would be part of the action plan.

He said the Canadian Forestry Service is working with its British and Alberta counterparts to develop more effective means of controlling the Mountain Pine Bark Beetle which is devastating some forests in the region.

Mr. Roberts also called for an increased commitment from the forest industry in forest renewal.

"The challenge ahead is one we all face. If we in the forest community are responsible in our actions and decisions affecting the forests, Canadians will benefit greatly from a strengthened resource and an improved economy in generations to come", he said.