



Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (right) with President Nicolae Ceausescu and Elena Ceausescu during their visit to Ottawa.

asures of arms limitation and disarmament, and reducing and eventually eliminating the threat to peace, whether by nuclear or conventional means.

In this context, the prime minister and the president welcomed the beginning of negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States concerning space and nuclear arms, both strategic and intermediate range, and expressed the hope that they will lead to positive results. The leaders also agreed that chemical weapons should be eliminated, and that a comprehensive, verifiable ban on chemical weapons should be achieved as soon as possible by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

Regarding the situation in the Middle East, the two sides indicated support for a political solution to the conflict, for recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and for ensuring the independence and sovereignty of all states in that area, including Israel.

In other areas they agreed on proceeding without delay to peaceful negotiations to end the conflict between Iran and Iraq, and that the Contadora initiative is the most appropriate avenue for the achievement of a comprehensive and workable peace agreement in Central America.

Special attention was attached to the problems regarding the international economic situation that continues to be extremely serious. The leaders emphasized that co-operation for renewed progress in developing countries to promote economic recovery and harmonious development of all countries would be in the interest of all states.

Economic relations statement

On April 17, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and President Nicolae Ceausescu issued a statement on long term economic relations between Canada and Romania, in which they noted:

- the favourable conditions for the development of economic relations established by the work of the Canada-Romania Joint Governmental Commission for Promotion of Trade and Economic Co-operation;
- the desire of commercial partners in both countries to extend bilateral co-operation in the nuclear field on existing projects and to develop joint opportunities in third countries;
- the growth of the volume of trade and the opportunities for additional bilateral exchanges;
- the efforts of the Canada-Eastern European Trade Council and the Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry jointly to establish a Canada-Romania Economic Council;
- the extensive relationship between the Export Development Corporation of Canada and the Romanian Bank for Foreign Trade, and their efforts to develop new financing mechanisms for the expansion of bilateral commerce;
- the recent initiatives and protocol between their respective firms, enterprises and organizations to expand technical co-operation and to pursue third markets.

The two leaders agreed Canada and Romania would continue:

- to assist in the conclusion and implementation of mutually beneficial agreements between firms, enterprises and economic organizations from the two countries;
- to promote the expansion of bilateral and economic industrial co-operation in sectors already under development, including nuclear and thermal energy production, process equipment fabrication, mineral extraction and metallurgical supply, agriculture, transportation and the transfer of engineering technology;
- to encourage industrial co-operation between interested firms, enterprises and economic organizations from the two countries through: joint participation in natural resource development and long-term supply agreements; co-operation on capital construction projects; establishment of joint ventures for the production and/or marketing of goods and services; joint production of machinery, equipment and installations; and the transfer of patent rights, technical data and know-how acceptable to both countries.

Machine readable passport

The Canadian Passport Office began issuing a new passport with machine readable capability on April 15, 1985.

The new Canadian passport, designed to specifications published in 1980 by the International Civil Aviation Organization, is a smaller and more secure document for people travelling abroad.

The bearer's personal information, photograph and passport details are all placed on one page under a protective laminate. Two lines of information at the bottom of the same page repeat some of the bearer's personal information and passport details in a special format for machine reading. The information can also be read visually.

The fee of \$21 and the procedure for applying for a passport will remain the same. Current passports will remain valid until their stated date of expiry.

Training in Egypt

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has allocated almost \$12 million for a five-year training program to ease Egypt's shortage of trained electric power transmission staff.

Energy is one of the priority sectors identified for development assistance from Canada to Egypt, said Minister of External Relations Monique Vézina. Under the program, engineers, technicians and instructors will be trained and a training centre that will assist in meeting the future manpower needs of the Egyptian Electricity Authority will be established, she added.

A Canadian agency will implement the project in three stages:

- In the first stage, a team of nine Canadians will work with five Egyptian counterparts to design the project, identify the requirements, prepare course curricula and develop criteria for the selection of trainees;
- the second stage will involve preparation of the training facilities at Cairo South Training Institute and mobilization of a team of 12 Canadian instructors; and
- the final stage, lasting up to four years, will involve the training of engineers, technicians, craftsmen, trainers and training administrators.

It is estimated that the project will train 180 engineers, 240 technicians and 50 instructors and administrators during the five-year period, and have a sustainable output of 60 engineers and 150 technicians a year in the future. In addition, some instructor and management training and specialized technical fellowships will be given in Canada.