

welcoming. We encounter no real difficulties in either country, and the only limits are those posed by our own priorities and resources.

Mr. Anthony (Canada Council) then summarized the results of a two-week tour of Germany which he had undertaken in the fall of 1993 at the invitation of the German government (a full account is available in his written report). German cultural institutions are also dealing with declining resources, although they started at such a high level that they are still very much better off than their Canadian counterparts. Still, this is a shock in a country that had become used to almost continuously expanding affluence. In the Eastern part of the country the situation is complex: disappointment that progress has not been faster, difficulty in adjusting to a market economy, and some resentment of "Wessis". There is a great need for a number of technical services: marketing expertise, conservation and restoration, security, environment control for *objets d'art*. Tactfully handled, there might be scope for bilateral cooperation, drawing on Canadian expertise in some of these areas.

Mr. Tritt (Canadian Heritage) suggested a discussion not only on arts policy, but also on policies affecting the cultural industries (film and television, publishing, sound recording) would be fruitful, given the fact that both countries are having to adjust to new circumstances. This was welcomed as fitting in with our proposed thematic approach to the bilateral talks.

Mr. Kelly (CCA) suggested that a discussion on electronic linkages between artists would be of interest. Rapidly evolving technology is revolutionizing the way people, including artists, communicate, and in every country discussions are under way how to deal with this phenomenon. In Canada there is a great deal of discussion about the "Information Highway", an arts TV channel, and the regulation of telecommunication. How is this being dealt with in The Netherlands and Germany. Ms. Drisdell (Téléfilm) suggested a reference should be made in the talks with Germany to our interest in a slight amendment to our bilateral film and television agreement with respect to increasing Canada's minimum participation from 20 to 30 percent. Mr. Tritt noted that a recent request from The Netherlands for minor changes to the Film and Television Agreement could be handled by diplomatic note. He also put forward the idea that it would be interesting to obtain the views of both The Netherlands and Germany on the the recent release of the EC's "Green Paper" on audiovisual policies and their proposed implementation of the Television Directive.

Ms. de la Varenne provided an overview of our relations with Germany and The Netherlands in the field of film and television. She noted that co-production with both countries had increased over the last two years, especially with respect to television.