



Alberta, like other provinces, communicates directly with foreign countries on matters of trade and tourism. Alberta House in London, left, keeps in touch with the Common Market. Premier Lougheed visited French Premier Jacques Chirac, lower right, in 1975 and California Governor Jerry Brown in 1978.

Premier Lougheed on the Constitution

"Historically, Albertans have not felt that their interests and concerns have been adequately accommodated within the present federal system. They sense that their accomplishments and aspirations, both individual and collective, have been frustrated by the historic concentration of economic decision-making in the so-called "golden triangle" centred in Toronto and also restricted and obstructed by so-called "national policies" emanating from Ottawa. It is not only a matter of freight rates—Alberta's aspirations have been obstructed by federal policies affecting agriculture, transportation, natural resources, development policies and international tariffs. . . .

"If Canada's federal system is to meet the challenge of the future, it can only do so with the presence of strong provincial governments operat-

ing side by side with a strong federal government. We emphatically do not believe that the existence of strong provincial governments weakens in any way the federal government. In today's complex society the demands on all governments are enormous. Provincial governments, under the existing constitution, are given broad responsibilities over social policy such as education, social services, health, consumer affairs and the administration of justice; and over economic policy such as resource development, highways, public lands and orderly industrial development. They are closer and hence more sensitive to the way of life and needs of the people in this diverse and thinly populated land."

Federal-Provincial Conference of First Ministers, 30 October 1978.