

While on vacation in August, Prime Minister Trudeau consulted briefly with Yugoslav Prime Minister Bijedic.

In 1976, Canada entertained parliamentary delegations from Yugoslavia, Hungary and the Soviet Union. These visits, part of a program administered by the Speaker of the House of Commons, were in exchange for earlier visits of Canadian parliamentarians to these countries.

In addition to exchanges of political leaders and parliamentarians, consultations between governmental officials play an important role in the development of bilateral relations with East European countries. An Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs travelled to Eastern Europe twice during 1976. In July, he held talks with officials in Moscow and Bucharest. Consultations were held in December in Budapest and Belgrade. In September, an Assistant Deputy Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce visited Prague and Moscow for trade talks. Senior Polish officials visited Canada in April to begin negotiations on a consular agreement and in November trade consultations were held with Polish officials in Ottawa.

Progress in the development of Canada's relations with the German Democratic Republic continued, and an agreement was reached in September for the mutual accreditation of ambassadors. This will be on a non-resident basis, with the GDR Ambassador in Washington, D.C., accredited to Ottawa, while Canadian relations with the GDR will be conducted from Warsaw.

In December, a Canadian Embassy was opened in Bucharest, J. E. Thibault being appointed Canada's first resident Ambassador to Romania.

In sports, there were regular exchanges of teams between Canada and the U.S.S.R. under the 1973 Agreement on Principles of Co-operation in Sport, and Soviet Olympic Committee officials concerned with planning for the 1980 Games in Moscow continued to visit Canada to learn from the Montreal

experience. The Soviet and Czech national hockey teams participated in the 1976 Canada Cup of Hockey, held in September under the auspices of the Canadian Government.

The Canada-U.S.S.R. General Exchanges Agreement provides for a program of academic, scientific and cultural exchanges with the Soviet Union, including an annual exchange of graduate students. Senior officials of the Soviet Ministry of Public Health visited Canada in July 1976 to learn something of current developments in public health, medical-care delivery systems and the medical sciences. In return, Canadian health officials visited the Soviet Union in September. Five Canadian journalists toured the U.S.S.R. in 1976, in return for a visit to Canada by Soviet journalists in 1975. The Canadian writers Ralph Gustafson, Al Purdy, Marie-Claire Blais and Antonine Maillet also visited the Soviet Union under the program. Somewhat earlier, several Soviet poets and writers had visited Canada. Works of art from the Hermitage Museum were shown in Montreal and Winnipeg in the fall of 1976, and plans are in progress for a selection of works by Canada's Group of Seven to be shown in Soviet centres in 1977. A Canadian film week was held in Moscow, Leningrad and Riga in January.

Canadian exchanges with other Eastern European countries are not based on formal agreements. For the most part, they are organized on a commercial or institution-to-institution basis, but Canada has entered officially into reciprocal scholarship programs with Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia. The programs, which began with the 1976-77 academic year, provide for the annual exchange of three graduate students with each of those countries. In February 1976, an exhibition of Inuit (Canadian Eskimo) prints was held in the Yugoslav cities of Belgrade, Sarajevo and Ljubljana, and in the same month a collection of Canadian books was presented to the University of Sarajevo by the Department of External Affairs. The National Library of Canada held an exhibit of Canadian books in Sofia, Bulgaria, and