

26,000 in 1965. Of 194,000 immigrants in 1966, almost 34,000 were Italians, and Italy is now second only to Britain as a source of immigrants. The Italian influence has greatly increased the colour of the Canadian scene, and we all count on Italian qualities continuing to enrich Canada to an increasing extent.

This is not a one-way street. Our growing ties with Italy were reflected in the shock felt by all Canadians last November when disastrous floods ravaged almost one-third of the Italian peninsula. Aid from private Canadian sources has been substantial, and the federal government has allocated half a million dollars to a flood relief programme. At the explicit request of the Italian government, we decided to devote a large part of this sum to assisting in the reconstitution of Italian livestock herds depleted by the floods. Under this Canadian government programme, breeding herds of quality registered cattle valued at approximately \$400,000 are due to arrive in Genoa around the middle of May, and a further \$100,000 will be applied to a broader programme which may include art restoration work.

One final -- and very important -- example of increasing links with Italy is our collaboration in culture. During my visit to Rome last year, Foreign Minister Fanfani and I concluded an exchange of letters setting up the Canadian Cultural Institute in Rome. The Institute's activities will include the fostering of Canadian cultural events in Italy and assistance to Canadian scholars and artists to study there. Foreign Minister Fanfani and I also agreed that discussions should begin on a general agreement covering the full range of cultural and artistic events.