

State Visit of the President of the Republic of Tunisia

Joint Communiqué

At the invitation of the Canadian Government, the President of the Republic of Tunisia, His Excellency Habib Bourguiba paid a state visit to Canada, May 8-12. During his stay, he visited Ottawa, Montreal and Niagara Falls. The President was accompanied by His Excellency Habib Bourguiba Jr., Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; His Excellency Chedly Klibi, Secretary of State for Cultural Affairs and Information; Mr. Abderrazak Rassaa, Under-Secretary of State for Finance and Development; and Mr. Lassaad Ben Osman, Under-Secretary of State for Agriculture.

On his arrival in Montreal, he was welcomed by the Honourable Maurice Sauvé, Minister of Forestry and Rural Development; the Honourable Jean-Jacques Bertrand, Minister of Justice of the Province of Quebec; and Mr. Lucien Saulnier, President of the Executive Committee of Montreal. In Ottawa, he was received by the Governor General, His Excellency the Right Honourable Roland Michener, C.C.; the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp. In the course of their conversations, the President and the Prime Minister discussed a number of major international questions. They had an exchange of views on La Francophonie, and agreed that this must develop in a way which would permit increasingly close relations between the countries which share a heritage of French culture and language. The President explained the Tunisian viewpoint on the question of the Middle East, and they underlined the importance of finding a solution which would be consistent with justice and a lasting peace in the region. For that purpose, they expressed their support for the efforts the United Nations is making to find a solution, particularly with respect to the mission of Ambassador Jarring.