

## External Affairs minister visits Italy

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan visited Italy May 6-7, at the invitation of Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Emilio Colombo. The visit followed participation by Dr. MacGuigan at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ministerial meeting held in Rome.

During their meeting in Rome, Dr. MacGuigan and Mr. Colombo discussed international questions at considerable length, focusing on Africa, the Middle East, Central America and the North-South dialogue. They also discussed consultative mechanisms among allied countries, such as NATO and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, and referred to the Economic Summit in this context. Italy will participate in the Summit which will be held in Canada this summer.

Dr. MacGuigan said that both countries agreed that there should be a "colloquial" dimension to the Summit and that while the meeting would necessarily centre on economic issues "there are so few occasions when the leaders of our countries get together that they can't lose that opportunity to exchange political points of view as well". As partners in NATO, the two ministers also reviewed East-West relations.

### Trade relations

Bilateral issues discussed centred on trade and economic relations. The two ministers also reviewed the application of the social security agreement which was entered into by both countries several years ago. Last December a convention on double taxation came into effect; it is expected to give a new boost to trade between the two countries. Dr. MacGuigan and Mr. Colombo also spoke of new agreements being considered by the two countries concerning cultural exchanges and consular relations. Italy is the country of origin of Canada's third largest cultural community and is Canada's seventh biggest trade partner.

The two ministers also took the opportunity to sign a new extradition treaty. The treaty, which is still subject to ratification, replaces and supersedes a 1873 treaty between Britain and Italy for the mutual surrender of fugitive criminals. In recent years, the Canadian government has been re-negotiating old treaties and



Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan (left) and Italy's Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo (right) sign extradition treaty.

concluding new treaties in the context of present-day requirements for crime prevention.

The treaty provides extradition for offences under the laws of both countries where a punishment of imprisonment of two years or more is imposed. It also includes drug offences. Extradition for offences of a political nature is excluded under the treaty.

During his visit, Dr. MacGuigan was received by Italian President H.E. Alessandro Pertini and met with Vincenzo



Dr. MacGuigan (right) shakes hands with Italian President H.E. Alessandro Pertini.

Scotti, Minister responsible for the reconstruction program in the earthquake zone in southern Italy. Dr. MacGuigan visited the earthquake-stricken areas around Naples. Canada has contributed to the relief efforts for victims of the earthquake, which struck last fall.

Dr. MacGuigan also visited the Director-General of the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) to discuss Canada's interest in world food programs and agricultural development. Canada has been a member of the FAO since the organization was set up at the Quebec Conference in 1945.

During a day-long meeting at the Holy See, May 8, the minister was received by Pope Jean Paul II. He also met with the Secretary of State, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli and exchanged views on the international situation with Monsignor Achille Silvestrini, Secretary of the Council for the Public Affairs of the Church. Dr. MacGuigan held talks with Cardinal Bernardin Gantin, President of the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace, on human rights, as well as on development and social justice issues.

### Future directions

While in Rome, Dr. MacGuigan addressed the Italo-Canadian Chamber of Commerce regarding the future of Canadian-Italian relations.

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