

tions. Because of France's specific economic weight and its highly important role in the EEC, Canada intends to broaden its economic relations with that country. Promising achievements have already given a significant boost to trade exchanges between the two countries, and to investments. Progress has also been made certain key sectors of Franco-Canadian industrial co-operation.

Among the more significant ministerial visits were those of the Secretary of State, Mr. Gerard Pelletier, Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs, and the Postmaster General, Mr. Joseph Côté, as part of their official duties. The Minister of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Arthur Laing, took part in the ceremonies marking the thirtieth anniversary of the Canadian landing at Dieppe. Several provincial ministers also visited France during the year, as well as other well-known Canadians such as the Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr. Lamoureux, and Senator Thérèse Casgrain who represented Canada at the twenty-second congress of the France-Canada Association at Caen.

Lastly, political co-operation between France and Canada was extended in 1972 to an increasing number of questions in the multilateral field, and within the framework of international bodies such as the United Nations and the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation.

The Federal Republic of Germany

Canada's relations with the Federal Republic of Germany continued to strengthen in 1972 and to assume greater importance for Canada. The fact that the Federal Republic is already Canada's fourth-ranking trading partner, and an important source both of immigrants and capital, also contributes to strengthening the role it can play in Canada's development.

Apart from regular contacts through the respective embassies in Bonn and Ottawa, and in the many multilateral organizations of which Canada and the Federal Republic are members, there were several noteworthy meetings between members of the Governments of Canada and the Federal Republic, as well as their officials. The newly-appointed Minister of Economics and

Finance (and former Minister of Defence) of the Federal Republic, Helmut Schmidt, paid a visit to Ottawa to pursue the discussion of questions of bilateral interest, and consultations were held between the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic at the regular semi-annual meetings of the North Atlantic Council, one of which took place in Bonn in 1972. Meetings between officials included the first of an annual series of consultative meetings arising out of the Agreement on Science and Technology signed in 1971. This meeting was held at Ottawa in December 1972, and has led to a number of new joint undertakings in that field. Negotiations were also carried out preparatory to the initialling in December 1972 and the signature early in 1973 of a new Air Transport Agreement between Canada and the Federal Republic. The agreement provides for increased landing rights for the airline of each country in the other, and is thereby also significant of the intensification of relations between the two countries. Negotiations were also initiated for a cultural agreement between Canada and the Federal Republic.

Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Austria

There were promising developments in relations between Canada and Belgium in 1972. The first meeting of the Mixed Commission set up under the terms of the 1971 Agreement on Scientific, Industrial and Technological Co-operation was held at Ottawa in May 1972, chaired jointly by Mr. Théo Lefèvre, Belgian Minister of State for Co-operation and Scientific Planning, and Mr. Alastair Gillespie, Canadian Minister of State for Science and Technology. During the work sessions, a wide range of subjects connected with science and technology were discussed and steps were taken to increase co-operation and exchanges between the two countries.

In order to maintain close relations with the Belgian labour movement as well as with European management and labour organizations, Canada posted a labour counsellor to Brussels during the summer.

Canada continued to enjoy close and harmonious relations with the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Austria. The many visits to these countries by