

Parliamentary groups went to France, the North Atlantic Assembly and the Council of Europe. In addition, a delegation from the F.R.G. *Bundestag* came to Ottawa in October and Senator G.C. van Roggen and Members of Parliament Mitchell Sharp and Allan Martin visited Brussels to discuss nuclear-energy problems.

Some of the Canadian provincial premiers also visited Europe in 1977: Premier Peter Lougheed of Alberta went to Switzerland in July; Premier William Bennett of British Columbia visited Switzerland, France and the Federal Republic of Germany in September; Premier René Lévesque of Quebec visited Paris in November. A number of provincial ministers also visited Western Europe during this period.

In addition, commissions and working groups promoted the development of bilateral relations. The France-Canada Economic Commission met in January, co-chaired by the French Minister of Foreign Trade, André Rossi, and the then Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce of Canada, Jean Chrétien; there was also a meeting in June of the working group on energy, and the working group on industry met in January. The Canada-Belgium Joint Commission on Cultural Relations and the Belgium-Quebec subcommission met in Canada in October. There was also a Canada-F.R.G. consultative meeting held under the Scientific and Technological Co-operation Agreement between the two countries. A number of meetings took place in 1977 under the Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Co-operation with the European Communities. The subcommittee on industrial co-operation created by the Joint Co-operation Committee met in Brussels in March and in Ottawa in July. The general co-operation and preparatory subcommittee met for the first time in Ottawa in July.

Canada signed a number of new agreements with Western European countries during 1977. Three agreements were signed with Italy in November, one on social security, another on the avoidance of double taxation and the third on co-operation on nuclear matters. Two agreements were signed with France in June, one concerning co-operation on urban affairs and the other between the National Research Council of Canada and the Institut national de la Santé et de la Recherche médicale. The air-transport agreement with France signed on June 15, 1976, became effective in January 1977 and the interim fishing arrangements between Canada and France were extended for a year in December. An extradition treaty was signed with the F.R.G. in July during the visit of Chancellor Schmidt. An agreement was signed with Greece concerning regular commercial maritime services, and a safeguards agreement was signed between the International Atomic Energy Agency, Canada and Spain. In addition, two existing agreements concluded previously came into effect in 1977: an agreement with Switzerland for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and capital and an agreement with Portugal concerning fisheries.