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French Prime Minister Raymond Barre visits Canada

A DC-8 aircraft of the French Government, which landed at Canadian Forces Base Ottawa on the morning of February 8, brought the Prime Minister of France and his delegation for an official six-day visit to Canada. A few hours earlier, a fine white blanket of snow had covered the region, on which a cold, bright sun would shine throughout the visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Barre were accompanied by Jean Philippe Lecat, Minister of Culture and Communications, and Olivier Stirn, Secretary of State to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, and their wives. A large delegation and about 60 journalists were in the party. Jean-Pierre Prouteau, Secretary of State to the French Minister of Industry, who had been sent to Cameroun by the President of the Republic, was to join the delegation with his wife a few days later.

Three provincial premiers present

After the military honours, Mr. Barre went to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's

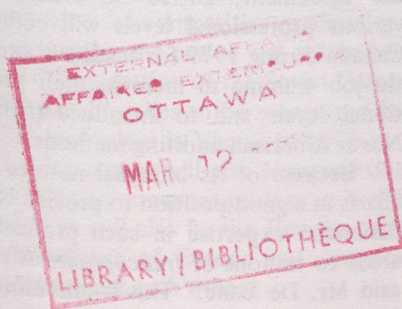
residence for an initial private talk during which they discussed the world situation and European matters and the role of France, as well as relations between Canada and Europe. Canadian policy, the "Third Option" and the Canada of today, were dealt with in turn. A working luncheon at Prime Minister Trudeau's residence included, besides the two prime ministers, the French ministers and their Canadian counterparts, their chief aides, as well as the premiers of Saskatchewan, Ontario and New Brunswick. The luncheon was an opportunity to acquaint Mr. Barre with the various aspects of Canadian life, and to express the wish of Canada's English-speaking provinces for closer cultural and economic relations with France.

During the day, the French ministers held working meetings with their Canadian counterparts. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Don Jamieson, and Jeanne Sauvé, Minister of Communications and Special Adviser on Franco-phone Affairs, talked with Mr. Stirn



Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson greets French Prime Minister Raymond Barre at a dinner given in Mr. Barre's honour by Governor-General Edward Schreyer at Government House. Mrs. Jamieson (left) speaks to Mr. Schreyer while Mrs. Schreyer waits to welcome Mr. Jamieson.

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