

made to the Government of Portugal for the discussion of possible economic co-operation, and Canada was represented by a member of the Cabinet at the ceremony marking the official accession to the throne of King Juan Carlos I of Spain.

Austria

During 1975, Canada continued to maintain close and cordial relations with Austria. Both countries maintain troops in UN peacekeeping operations in Cyprus and the Middle East. A major aspect of Canada-Austria relations in 1975 consisted of consultations on international questions such as UN matters and law-of-the-sea negotiations, in which Austria takes an active role among landlocked nations. Trade between Austria and Canada increased in 1975 to a total value of \$76 million, compared to \$72 million in 1974.

Benelux

The forward momentum of Canada's relations with the Benelux countries that was generated by Mr. Trudeau's visit to Belgium in 1974 was maintained in 1975. The Prime Minister paid an official visit to the the Netherlands as part of a spring European tour. His program included a call on Queen Juliana and discussions with Dutch Prime Minister Joop den Uyl. The talks ranged from Canada's efforts to negotiate a contractual link with the European Community to nuclear safeguards and the dialogue between developed and developing countries.

Mr. den Uyl, for his part, visited Canada unofficially during May and had a number of meetings with Canadian leaders.

An unofficial visit to Ottawa was also made in December by Prime Minister Thorn of Luxembourg, who spent a quiet weekend with Mr. Trudeau and his family, away from his duties as President of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Premier Lougheed of Alberta and Premier Schreyer of Manitoba both visited Belgium. In the course of his visit, Mr. Schreyer participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Manitoba Bridge* in Bruges.

*The Manitoba Bridge, on the outskirts of Bruges, was crossed by the 12th Manitoba Dragoons, a reconnaissance regiment of the Fourth Canadian Armoured Division, which entered the city on September 12, 1944, and liberated it from the German occupying forces.

Ministerial visits were made by Charles Drury, Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of Public Works, to both the Netherlands and Belgium. Canada played host to several Benelux ministers: Mr. F. H. P. Trip, Dutch Minister for Research and Development, Jozef Chabert, Belgian Minister of Communications, and Mr. Humblet, Belgian Minister of French Education.

Bilaterally, several significant events took place. Most prominent was the first meeting, under the auspices of the Belgian-Canadian Cultural Agreement, of the mixed commission to discuss cultural exchanges between Belgium and Canada and the Canadian provinces. The meeting, held in Quebec City in December, provided for the expansion of the already wide range of cultural and academic exchanges.

With the Netherlands, Canada shares an extensive common interest in economic aid to developing countries. While preparing for the seventh special session of the UN General Assembly, therefore, Canada and the Netherlands and several other like-minded countries engaged in a series of consultations.

In 1975, trade between Canada and the Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU), and the Netherlands showed respective increases over the previous year.

France

Prime Minister Trudeau's visit to Paris in October 1974 gave a marked impetus to bilateral relations that had already, during the past three or four years, been showing steady development. In the field of economic co-operation, the following initiatives were taken by the two governments as a direct result of talks held between the two prime ministers: a meeting of the France-Canada economic commission, for the first time presided over by ministers, Mr. Ségard for France and Mr. Gillespie for Canada; two meetings of experts on energy matters; two meetings of experts on industrial matters; and the visit to France in November-December 1975 of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce at the head of a substantial delegation of Canadian officials and businessmen. All these developments had a stimulating effect on bilateral economic relations, resulting in the identification of a greater number of areas of co-operation and in the determination to pursue efforts to increase trade (which in 1975 rose to \$820 million from