

Relations with other Mediterranean countries, particularly Turkey, also received attention. An invitation to the Turkish Foreign Minister to visit Canada was accepted subject to agreement on a mutually convenient date.

Canada continued to pursue a close dialogue with the Scandinavian states in 1969. In February, Canada and Sweden prepared a joint paper for consideration at the first session of the United Nations Working Group on Direct Broadcasting from Satellites. Both the Minister of Justice, Mr. Turner, and the Minister of Health and Welfare, Mr. Munro, visited Sweden during the year. In June the Secretary of State for External Affairs paid official visits to Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland, meeting and conferring with the heads of state and government leaders.

Canada's relations with the Communist countries of Eastern Europe remained affected during 1969 by events in Czechoslovakia. The continued presence of Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia and the disturbing repercussions for national sovereignty and independence of the Soviet doctrine justifying the invasion of that country (with its implications of a "spheres of influence" policy) were regarded with concern, as were the measures taken to restrict freedom of movement of persons and ideas.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs pointed out in speeches concerned with the invasion that the Canadian Government recognized that, in the long run, peaceful evolution in relations with the Communist countries was the only hope of achieving stable and equitable settlement of the fundamental issues dividing the world. Accordingly, Canada did its best during the course of the year to revive the spirit of *détente*, the continuing development of which had become promising in the period preceding the invasion. Among other things, Canada expressed its interest in the much-discussed European Security Conference, provided that it was adequately prepared, had reasonable prospects of success and included all countries concerned. East-West trade and tourism continued to grow, the climate for cultural, scientific and technological exchanges improved, and official and semi-official visits were made in both directions. Particularly noteworthy was an official visit to Canada in October by Mr. Andrei A. Gromyko, Foreign Minister of the U.S.S.R. This visit marked the first time a Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union had ever paid an official visit to Canada, and opened the way for a further development of relations. In December, the Canadian Wheat Board concluded a contract with the Soviet grain-purchasing agency for the sale of 3,430,000 long tons of wheat and flour, thus completing the obligations outstanding under the Soviet-Canadian long-term agreement of 1966. Canada participated in trade fairs at Poznan, Poland, in June and at Zagreb, Yugoslavia, and Brno, Czechoslovakia, in September. Two international agreements were signed by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce -- a trade agreement with Hungary on September 25, 1969, and a three-year wheat agreement with Poland on October 31, 1969, and progress was made in outstanding claims negotiations.