

stituted the main factor in our bilateral relations. Efforts to identify opportunities for industrial co-operation were undertaken to enhance the economic relationship between the two countries. The Prime Minister visited the Italian President and Prime Minister during his peace mission.

The Netherlands

The embassy was active in raising Canada's profile by encouraging links between the organizers of the annual Holland Festival, which will feature Canada in its 1985 program, and the Canadian cultural community. Canadian studies courses were extended to include French-Canadian literature, political science and anthropology.

In September 1983, the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs participated in bilateral discussions with the Secretary of State for External Affairs in Ottawa. In March 1984, the Dutch Minister for International Trade visited Toronto, Ottawa, Quebec, and Montreal, where he met with a number of ministers, both federal and provincial, to discuss trade matters of interest to both countries.

Spain

Relations with Spain were highlighted during the past year by the official visit to Canada of King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia in March 1984. They visited Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver and Victoria.

Though Spain joined the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization in 1983, Canada continued to experience problems both with fishing by the Spanish fleet in areas adjacent to Canadian waters, and access to the Spanish market. The two countries were unable to reach agreement on the management of fisheries relations in 1983-84, notwithstanding several negotiating sessions.

Portugal

Fisheries continued to dominate Canada-Portugal relations. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans went to Lisbon in January 1984 to negotiate further allocations of cod stocks to Portugal and the sale of Canadian fish products. In October 1983, the Portuguese Secretary of State for Emigration visited representatives of the 300 000-strong Portuguese community in Canada. Together with France and Portugal, Canada is participating in Phase I of a development assistance pro-

ject involving the construction of a railway in Mozambique.

The Nordic countries

In the Nordic region, high-level bilateral visits continued to be the major events in 1983-84. The Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs came to Canada in October 1983 for general bilateral discussions, and the Norwegian Minister of Commerce and Shipping came in March 1984, accompanied by a large delegation from the offshore energy and maritime industry sector. The delegation held seminars in Halifax, Toronto and Calgary. Canada continued with the repositioning of the Canadian Air-Sea Transportable (CAST) Brigade Group in Norway, as well as participating in two NATO exercises, Viking Shield and Avalanche Express.

An agreement on control of marine environment problems in the area between Canada and Greenland was concluded with Denmark. The signing of a memorandum of understanding with Sweden for co-operation in research on energy conservation formalized several existing joint research projects. In Norway, Canada proposed a series of specific projects for scientific and technological co-operation in response to a Norwegian initiative.

High-profile sporting events, especially hockey and Alpine sports, increased Scandinavian awareness of Canada and generated favourable publicity. Although the total value of exports to the Nordic countries decreased in 1983, shipments of electronic equipment for communications and business automation remained at the level of the previous year.

Other countries of Western Europe

There was a noticeable increase in exchanges with Turkey. The level of commercial activity continued to increase in 1983. Although the total value of exports decreased, shipments of telecommunications equipment, wheat and barley improved considerably. In addition, a number of major projects attracted the interest of Canadian industry. The visit to Ottawa in November 1983, of the Secretary General of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided the opportunity to expand political discussion between the two countries. The Prime Minister visited Athens in September.

In addition, Canadian ministers took the opportunity to meet with their European counterparts while attending multilateral meetings and summits.