

Equally important, we undertake visits with a view to deepening existing opportunities for political and other exchanges. Last November I made an official trip to Rome during the course of which I met and talked with President Saragat, Prime Minister Moro and Foreign Minister Fanfani. (As you know I also had a long talk with His Holiness the Pope). In September President Saragat himself will pay us a state visit to which we are very much looking forward.

While in Montreal, President Saragat will, of course, visit the Italian pavilion at Expo 67, a striking edifice that mirrors all that modern Italy has to offer in the way of spiritual values and practical accomplishments.

Italy's material accomplishments and our own provide the basis for expanding trade. Commercial relations between our two countries have, as you know, become much closer during the last few years. In 1966 Canada imported over \$86 million dollars worth of Italian agricultural products, consumer goods and industrial equipment; we exported goods worth \$114 million, including both bulk foodstuffs and raw materials and sophisticated manufactured goods.

Thousands of Canadian tourists visit Italy each year. We hope to encourage more Italians to make the trip here, and to this end the Canadian Government Travel Bureau plans to open an office in Italy, probably in Rome.

But the most intimate link between Canada and Italy, as you well know, flows from family ties. There are well over 500,000 persons of Italian descent in Canada today. Immigration has increased steadily in recent years, from 14,200 in 1961 to