

My visit takes place at a time when the eyes of the world are on Belgrade as the venue for the CSCE Review Conference. A positive and constructive outcome of the Conference is an objective shared by the Yugoslav and Canadian governments and I am confident that by working closely together, our respective delegations can make a major contribution to this goal.

The interest of Canadians in Yugoslavia has probably never been higher. This is demonstrated by the continuing stream of Canadian visitors to Yugoslavia, both from the government and the Canadian public. In August last year, Prime Minister Trudeau had an opportunity to meet your late distinguished Prime Minister. Just last month, the Canadian minister of Finance, Mr. Macdonald, paid an official visit to Yugoslavia and following my own visit, a group of Canadian members of parliament will visit Belgrade in September.

Given the distance between Canada and Yugoslavia and our quite different backgrounds, it might be assumed we do not have much in common-but this is not the case. Yugoslavia and Canada are Federal states sharing the common objective of maintaining National unity and cohesion; we have similar perspectives on many world problems and should find it possible to work together toward solutions; there are more than 100,000 Canadians of Yugoslav ancestry who have made a valued contribution to the Canadian National mosaic and who form a living bond between us.

I recognize that small groups of people sometimes take advantage of the openness of Canadian society to pursue objectives inimicable to the integrity of Yugoslavia. I would like to repeat here in Belgrade what my predecessor, Mr. MacEachen, said in Ottawa in 1975 on the occasion of Mr. Minic's visit: "The Government of Canada neither supports nor condones the aims of such groups and is distressed that Canada is used from time to time by them as a meeting place. We will continue to do what we can within the framework of Canadian law to discourage such activity and to ensure that the persons concerned are aware the Canadian Government views their activities with distaste." We have recently been required to deal with certain specific manifestations of this activity and I hope you will agree they have been resolved in a mutually satisfactory way. With continued understanding and cooperation on both sides, I am convinced this issue can be prevented from becoming a negative element in the continued positive evolution of our relations.

We look forward to developing closer cooperation with your country, Mr. Foreign Secretary. Like you, we believe that a potential exists for more intensive trade and economic co-operation. We appreciate the importance you attach to new forms of Economic co-operation where Canadian technology and expertise can be linked with your capabilities in various fields, such as engineering and construction, for joint projects either in Yugoslavia or in third countries. We have already engaged on one successful joint venture; others are actively being explored by Canadian firms in consultation with your self-managing enterprises.