

powers are in direct confrontation, and war in Europe could trigger nuclear conflict that would inevitably involve us. Our geography, placing us between the United States and the Soviet Union, means that any such war would be fought out over our heads. It is our concern to build real détente and security in Europe and, to this end, we attach importance to the firm establishment of normal working relations between countries whose ideological differences have in the past thrown up barriers creating mistrust and insecurity in Europe. It is our conviction that, in a reasoned assessment, common interests must outweigh differences in ideology.

It would be idle to pretend that there are not important differences in the foreign policies, as in the internal policies, of Canada and Romania. Yet our two countries have had many occasions to meet and to appreciate each other's point of view through our common membership in such multilateral organizations as the United Nations and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. There we found that often we were pursuing the same objectives and working jointly for international co-operation, peace and security. It was, indeed, in such organizations that our first official contacts developed. Our bilateral relationship, however, really began in 1967 - only three years ago - with an exchange of letters establishing diplomatic relations. Since then, the accreditation of ambassadors from Washington and Belgrade, the establishment of your trade office in Montreal and of your Embassy in Ottawa have all made their contribution to the growth of Canadian-Romanian relations. In this connection, I take very great pleasure in welcoming the decision of your Government to appoint an Ambassador to be resident in Ottawa.

Because we are so recently established in our diplomatic relations and are so far apart geographically, it is hardly surprising that contacts between our two countries have not in the past been extensive. It is my hope that Canada and Romania will, in the future, be able to develop areas of co-operation and exchange which will be to our mutual benefit. This will take time, of course, but we are prepared to examine with you ways in which our contacts can be broadened. In Canada, we have been impressed by the remarkable rate of growth of Romania's industrial output over the past 20 years. We take great interest in your achievement in the diversification of your economy, particularly in the areas of energy, metallurgy, and pulp and paper, textile and chemical manufacture. These industries and the general field of the exploitation of natural resources may well provide in the future areas of profitable exchange of technological and scientific knowledge between our two countries. We in Canada have developed some advanced techniques in a number of fields, such as resource extraction and energy production and transmission, which are of interest to other countries. You in Romania may be particularly interested in the type of nuclear reactor which we can offer. Co-operation in this field would have the additional advantage of promoting a considerable technological exchange.

Romania's broad approach to world markets is, in many ways, similar to our multilateralism. In bilateral trade relations we have already achieved some success. Last year, the value of Romanian exports to Canada increased markedly from almost \$2 million to over \$7 million. Canadian exports to Romania rose more modestly, to approximately \$1,200,000. There is, however, much scope for greater commercial effort on both sides.