

Western Europe

international associations, and were made available to the public.

Canadian initiatives during the negotiations were directed to measures to assist the freer movement of people and ideas, with particular attention to the reunification of families. Canada also succeeded in the inclusion of a confidence-building measure involving advance notification of military manoeuvres. Finally, Canada was able to safeguard and advance important economic and environmental interests.

Canada's active participation in this conference, and in the follow-up activities flowing from it, constitutes a further demonstration of the importance the Canadian Government gives to maintaining close contacts in all fields with Europe. (See page 2)

The major Canadian effort aimed at strengthening Canada's connection with industrialized Western European countries and with the European Community was highlighted in 1975 by the visits of Prime Minister Trudeau to the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Britain, Ireland, Denmark and Luxembourg, and by the working-out of a negotiating mandate that the European Commission would use during 1976 in the formal negotiation of a contractual link with the Canadian Government. At the same time, visits to Europe by Canadian ministers, notably that of Mr. Jamieson to France and Switzerland in December, and exchanges of missions exploring the possible sectors for industrial co-operation between Canada and the Community countries, indicated a readiness on both sides to get down to the business of identifying specific ways in which the contractual link could become a reality.

During the fall of 1975, Premier Lougheed, at the head of a large Alberta delegation, made a visit to Britain, France, the Federal Republic of Germany and Belgium, an initiative that the Premier placed squarely within the context of Canada's "Third Option" policy, the success of which underscored the growing desire of the provincial governments to expand their contacts with Western European countries.

Following a visit to Ottawa by Mr. Vedovato, President of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, an agreement was worked out between the Council and the Government of Canada for more frequent and regular contacts. Subsequently, a Canadian parliamentary delegation participated in the annual OECD debate of the Assembly in Strasbourg in October. Besides this, two Canadian parliamentarians attended the fourth parliamentary and scientific conference in Florence in November, and two Canadian parliamentarians attended the second part of the twenty-first session of the Assembly of the Western European Union in Paris early in December.

Regular parliamentary exchanges between Canada and the European Parliament have existed for some time. At the invitation of the Speaker of the House of Commons, an 18-member parliamentary delegation from the EC countries visited Ottawa in October 1975.

In the course of the year, Canadian involvement with the countries of the Iberian Peninsula became more active. Proposals were