

Canada's Relations with Norway

Norway and Canada have been allies in wartime and peacetime. Both countries share many common viewpoints on issues that arise in such international organizations as the United Nations as well as a result of their membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. They have similar values in a number of domestic fields including the environment, the North, and social policy. In the past both have benefited from each other's experience in dealing with problems in these areas.

Formal diplomatic relations were established between Norway and Canada in 1942 when Norway opened a mission in Ottawa. In 1943 Canada's former Governor-General, Major-General Georges Vanier, was accredited as Minister to the Norwegian Government in exile in London. Canada opened a mission in Oslo in 1946. Both governments raised the status of their missions to that of embassies in 1955.

Norway is among Canada's ten largest customers in the world. Canadian sales to Norway totalled \$186 million in 1971, 80% of Canadian exports consisting of nickel and copper ores, matte and concentrates. Sales of high labour value-added goods from Canada to Norway have increased by 50% during the period 1969-1971. Norwegian exports to Canada in 1971 were valued at \$53 million, and included principally nickel anodes, cathodes and ingots, fish, furs and specialized foods.

Mr. Varvik's visit is part of a continuing exchange of visits between Canada and Norway. In 1969, both the Norwegian Minister of Defence and the Minister of Municipal Affairs made official visits to Canada. In the same year, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, paid an official visit to Norway. In 1971 the Norwegian Parliamentary Committee on Transportation and Communications made a study tour of Canada, and the following year the Norwegian Government Institution of Organization and Management visited Ottawa. In 1971 the Canadian Minister of Defence visited Norway.