

III - ASSESSMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN FRANCE AND CANADA SINCE 1986

The assessment made by the French side detailed moderately active scientific co-operation which was, nonetheless, open to improvement, with certain obstacles that should be removed.

In order to optimize the budgetary resources for co-operation the French side made its best efforts to co-ordinate such resources around finalized projects of mutual interest.

Those projects, identified as high-priority sectors at the last CMS meeting, were able to receive the resources provided to the teams concerned. However, the French side noted that this procedure was not entirely satisfactory, as some of the available resources, notably scholarships, could not be attributed to such projects.

On the other hand, post-doctoral grants were satisfactorily awarded in the most active sectors.

The Mois-Chercheurs program may have been somewhat unwieldy; nonetheless it accurately reflected the priorities set out by the previous CMS. Improvements could be produced henceforth by providing evaluations of newly proposed projects from the Commission's experts, who would meet in sectoral groups. The projects selected would thus be able to benefit from the various resources available on a priority basis.

Organizations are also players in this co-operative scheme, and the Ministère de l'Education Nationale, de la Recherche et des Sports, furnished a list of 29 inter-university agreements and numerous spontaneous exchanges. It did note, however, that there was an imbalance in these exchanges which favoured Canada, primarily due to the high cost of registration fees for students required by Canadian universities. Such fees are not demanded by their French counterparts. The Ministère expressed the desire that this situation be corrected.

The CNRS, for its part, gave details on its agreement with the NRC, and which resulted in the following breakdown:

- 2/3 of French researchers train in NRC laboratories.
- 1/3 of them do so in university laboratories.

As 75% of the French researchers would like to work in university laboratories, the decision was made to use the "Mois-Chercheurs" program to respond to this request.