

and Greek officials were once again celebrating the strong ties that bound their two countries together.

The restoration of democracy gave bilateral relations some badly needed momentum during the late 1970s. This was reflected in the establishment of the Canadian Archaeological Institute in Athens in February 1976 by John Fossey, a McGill professor of Archaeology and Jean Desmarais, a Ph.D. student. Disillusioned by the cancellation of their 1973 archaeological dig under the auspices of the British School at Athens because the school had not obtained the required permits, they decided to establish an independent Canadian school. With help from the dynamic Canadian Ambassador to Greece, Michel Gauvin – a veteran of the Second World War and diplomatic trouble-shooter who had represented Canada in the Dominican Republic, the Congo, and Vietnam – they founded the Canadian Archaeological Institute. Since its establishment, the institute has served as a vital educational institution in the Greek capital.²⁰

The quickening momentum was reflected too in other aspects of the relationship. Though still modest by any measure, trade was undoubtedly improving. Canadian exports from barley to scrap iron to furs totalled \$55 million in 1978, up from \$17.8 million in 1970. At this rate of growth, boasted Canadian officials, Canada's exports might top \$80 million by the end of the year. In return, Greece sent Canada \$36 million worth of cheese, raisins, olives, and footwear in 1978, a sevenfold increase over its \$4.78 million in exports in 1970.²¹

More important, the prominent Canadian journalist Hugh Winsor quipped, when it came to bilateral trade, "the real commodity of exchange is people".²² This was evident in the stream of high-level visitors that flitted across the Atlantic in the second half of the decade, determined to breathe new life into relations. In 1977, Canada's foreign minister, the lively Newfoundlander Don Jamieson, travelled to Greece to engage in bilateral and multilateral talks covering such critical issues as the situation in the Middle East, Cyprus, and Greece-Turkey relations. The following year, Greece's deputy minister for foreign affairs, Andreas Andrianopoulos, travelled to Canada, holding meetings with ministers and officials as well as taking the time to visit with Greek-Canadian communities.

There were three more top-level exchanges the next year. At the start of the year, Minister of National Defence Barney Danson, a decorated veteran of the Second World War who had lost an eye in Normandy, visited Greece and Canadian peacekeepers in nearby Cyprus. In June, the Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral Robert Falls, travelled to Greece, and his Greek coun-