

Cultural exchanges between France and Canada have increased, in conformity with the France-Canada cultural agreement of 1965; thus Les Grands Ballets Canadiens were staged in France last spring on the occasion of a grand European tour, and an exhibition of drawings by masters from Raphael to Picasso was inaugurated at the Louvre in November. During the year, co-operation increased between France and the Canadian provinces, especially Quebec.

Canada's relations with the Federal Republic of Germany were highlighted by the visit to Ottawa in April of Mr. Willy Brandt, then Foreign Minister and now Chancellor. Another important visit was that of the Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr. Lucien Lamoureux, to the Federal Republic and West Berlin in September and October. In July, existing co-operation in the use of the Churchill Research Range for the firing of high-altitude scientific sounding rockets was formalized through the signing of an intergovernmental agreement. Trade between the two countries continued to increase, as did the amount of capital borrowed in the Federal Republic by private and governmental agencies in Canada. For reasons of economy, the Government decided to close the office of the Canadian Military Mission in Berlin. The Canadian Ambassador in Bonn will continue to be accredited on a non-resident basis in his capacity as head of the Canadian Military Mission and will, as in the past, make regular visits to Berlin as evidence of Canada's commitment to the security and welfare of that city.

In 1969, the good relations that have long existed between Canada and the Benelux countries, as well as Switzerland and Austria, continued to flourish. In May, Canada received a visit from Mr. Fayat, the Belgian Foreign Trade Minister. On Canada's part, there was the visit to Belgium of the Secretary of State, Mr. Pelletier, who held fruitful talks with the Belgian Government's cultural chiefs. Commercial relations with the Netherlands increased appreciably. The Dutch Minister of Defence, Mr. den Toom, came to Canada personally in September to receive, on behalf of his Government, the first of a series of military planes built in Canada for the Netherlands.

Of considerable interest and importance was the announcement by the Prime Minister on October 15 that Canada and the Holy See had agreed to exchange diplomatic missions. The former President of Brandon University, Dr. John Robbins, was named Canada's Ambassador and Archbishop Clarizio, the Apostolic Delegate in Ottawa, was appointed Pro-nuncio. The Department announced at the time that both parties were confident that this step would contribute to their mutual understanding and to exchanges of views between them on international matters of common concern.

The Foreign Minister of Italy, Mr. Aldo Moro, paid a two-day official visit to Ottawa on October 10 and 11. Mr. Moro called on the Governor-General and the Prime Minister and had an exchange of views with the Secretary of State for External Affairs on a variety of subjects of mutual concern. The visit underlined the growing closeness of Canadian-Italian relations and the mutual advantage of increased co-operation and consultations.