

# THE GEOGRAPHIC REGION: EUROPE

*Excerpted from Departmental Statements/Discours, Communiqués and News Releases:*

## **Letter to the Spanish Minister of External Affairs**

*Communiqué No. 65, March 13, 1986*

"Dear Minister: I was very pleased to learn of the referendum results, and I congratulate you on your government's victory. You are aware of the importance ascribed by Canada to Spain's remaining in the Atlantic Alliance. Our two countries can now continue to work together within the Alliance in the interest of western security and solidarity and the preservation of peace. With my best regards and warmest congratulations.

Joe Clark"

## **Commonwealth Day, March 10**

*Statement No. 86/18 by Joe Clark in the House of Commons, March 10, 1986*

"Mr. Speaker, today is Commonwealth Day and it gives me great pleasure to salute this remarkable institution. We are all familiar with the spirit of friendship and tolerance which so distinguishes this association of 49 states, comprising fully one quarter of the world's population.... Canada has invited Commonwealth leaders to convene in Vancouver in 1987 for their next meeting. The invitation demonstrates our commitment to the Commonwealth...."

## **Release of Anatoly Shcharansky**

*Communiqué No. 27, February 11, 1986, statement by Joe Clark.*

"I welcome the release by the Soviet Union of the Jewish leader Anatoly Shcharansky.... Today's event is viewed by the Government as a positive gesture by the Soviet Union. I hope the Soviet Government will now move toward releasing all Jews who wish to emigrate. This would contribute to better East/West trust and understanding and to the development of popular support for growth in our bilateral relations."

## **Ministerial meeting in preparation for the Francophone Summit**

*Communiqué No. 190, December 12, 1985.*

On December 14 Mme Monique Vezina, the Minister for External Relations, will take part in a meeting in Paris, at the ministerial level, to discuss plans for the Francophone Summit. Mr. Lucien Bouchard, Canada's Ambassador to France, and Canada's "sherpa" will also attend.... As the result of an understanding with the federal government, the governments of Quebec and New Brunswick will also take part in the meeting.

## **25th Anniversary of the OECD**

*News Release No. 192 by Joe Clark and Michael Wilson, December 18, 1985.*

"...It was Canada's Minister of Finance of the day, the Honourable Donald Fleming, who chaired the first meeting of the OECD Council at the Ministerial Level 25 years ago. Our world has changed profoundly since 1961, and the OECD has made a great contribution to our policies for dealing with those changes, particularly in strengthening and developing the multilateral economic cooperation which has brought us all an unprecedented prosperity.... On behalf of all member countries we salute the OECD, and look forward with anticipation to many more years of multilateral cooperation under its auspices."

## **Euratom/Canada**

*Communiqué No. 62, March 7, 1986.*

On March 6, 1986 Ambassador Robert K. Joyce, Head of the Canadian Mission to the European Communities, and Mr. Willy De

Clercq, Commissioner of European Communities responsible for External Relations, signed a Memorandum of Understanding concerning cooperation in the area of controlled thermonuclear fusion.... The Memorandum calls for exchange of information and mutual participation in scientific meetings organized by either party....

## **Spring Ministerial Session of the North Atlantic Council**

*Communiqué No. 71, March 26, 1986.*

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today details of the forthcoming Spring Ministerial Session of the North Atlantic Council to be held in Halifax on May 29 and 30, 1986. Canada last hosted a regular Spring Session of the NATO Foreign Ministers in 1974 in Ottawa.... Discussions are expected to focus on recent developments in East-West relations, including the Alliance's approach to arms control negotiations.

## **BULLFIGHTING IN PORTUGAL**

The history of bullfighting is as old as man. What started as primitive man's self-defence against a wild animal became a test of skill and courage, with man pitting his wits and cunning against the bull's savage strength.

Here in the Iberian Peninsula in the middle ages, bullfighting was already an established sport and in Portugal, where a great interest in horse riding has always been maintained, the traditional bullfight was built round a contest between the man on horseback and the bull. Today the fighting horseman still faces the bull on a noble horse, matching his own grace and dexterity and that of his mount, to the great beast's strength and fury.

The true horseback fighter, or 'cavaleiro', must devote years to the training of his horses, so they may face the bull in the arena without flinching.

Once the 'capas' or men with capes have managed to manoeuvre the bull to the centre of the ring, the horseman gallops towards him. One expects a welter of dust and blood from the inevitable collision, but at the very last moment the perfectly trained horse springs to the left. This is called a 'quarteiro' and disaster is averted. A simple, perfect action which is the culmination of skill and timing and years of hard work.

The second and ancient form of bullfighting, tackling the bull by hand, is strictly confined to Portugal, and is nearly always

combined in the same programme as the cavaleira. The men, or 'os forcados' as they are called, leap into the ring and advance on the bull. The lead man first attracts the bull with cries, jumps and claps, then with bent body grapples with the advancing bull, moving at exactly the right moment to break the force of the blow by falling on the bull just before its great head is thrust upwards to toss. He then either holds onto the horns, or lets his body hang between them, 'encornar', whilst his hands seize the 'barbela', the loose skin on the bull's chest.

The three accepted ways of tackling the bull are, face to face, 'de cara', back-to-front, 'de costas' (very rarely done) and sideways on, 'de cernelha'; the first being the most spectacular.

The enraged bull tries vainly to shake off the man and as he valiantly holds on, the second 'forcado' grasps one of the bull's horns with his other arm, encircling the leader's body, holding him tight against the bull. The remaining 'forcados' now rush in throwing themselves against the bull and hindering its movements, or holding strongly onto its tail. Thus the skirmish continues until the bull tires, the last assailant lets go and finally the bull is freed.

(This article is courtesy of the Portuguese Embassy.)