

Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed in Helsinki in August 1975.

Western Europe

Though 1976 was the year of the Framework Agreement with the European Community, Canada did not attach less importance to its bilateral relations with European countries, whether they were members of the Community or not. In fact, besides the working relations that were maintained in a great many fields by the Canadian embassies in these countries and by their embassies in Canada, special high-level discussions were held with a large number of the countries concerned. Discussions between ministers took place on occasion in conjunction with such regularly-scheduled gatherings as the NATO ministerial meeting, held every six months, and the opening of the UN General Assembly in New York. Such meetings provided the opportunity to discuss bilateral concerns as well as multilateral ones. In addition, ministers made special trips to hold detailed discussions in depth. Among others, there were: the visit to Ottawa in April by the Prime Minister of Belgium, Leo Tindemans, and the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Renaat Van Elslande; the visit to the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) in May by the then Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan J. MacEachen, for talks with members of the German Government, especially the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hans-Dietrich Genscher; Mr. MacEachen's visit to Vienna, also in May, for talks with members of the Austrian Government, in particular with his Austrian counterpart, Doctor Erich Bielka; Mr. MacEachen's talks during the same visit with the senior officials of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency, which have their headquarters in Vienna; the visit to Ottawa in October of the Greek Foreign Minister, Dimitrios Bitsios; the visit to Paris in November by Mr. Jamieson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, for talks with members of the French Government, in particular the

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Louis de Guiringaud; and the visit to Ottawa in November by the Spanish Foreign Minister, Marcelino Oreja Aguirre. Prime Minister Trudeau received Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, in July. This private visit provided the opportunity to discuss bilateral and multilateral questions of common interest. While the Prime Minister was in Rome in September, he was granted a private audience with Pope Paul VI to discuss matters of substance. He also discussed questions of common interest with the President of the Italian Republic, Giovanni Leone, and the Prime Minister of Italy, Giulio Andreotti.

Contacts between other ministers also helped to strengthen Canada's links with individual Western European countries. Canadian ministers received the French Minister of Labour, Michel Durafour, in Ottawa in February, the French Minister of Education, René Haby, in March, the Netherlands Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, Andreas A. M. van Agt, in May, and the French Secretary of State for the Post Office and Telecommunications, Norbert Ségard, in October. Barnett Danson, then Minister of State for Urban Affairs, visited Paris in February in connection with the *Habitat* Conference; John Munro, Minister of Labour and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism, visited Italy in June; and Daniel MacDonald, Minister of Veterans Affairs, visited Paris in November. Among the many parliamentary exchanges was the visit to Ottawa in June by a large delegation from the Council of Europe, headed by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Karl Czernetz.

In addition, commissions and working groups pursued the development of bilateral relations. This resulted in the meeting of the Canada-France Joint Commission for Scientific Affairs in March, the Canada/Federal Republic of Germany Committee on Cultural Relations in April, and the Canada-Belgium Joint Commission on Cultural Relations in October. In November and December, the Italian Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Trade, Luigi Michele Galli, headed a large