

Planned agreement between the Conférence des Grandes Ecoles and the Canadian Committee of Deans of Engineering and Applied Sciences Faculties

On its own initiative, the Conférence des Grandes Ecoles organized a visit of five individuals to Ontario and to Quebec in October 1987 to determine the possibilities of co-operative projects with Canadian universities. Many sectors were identified and a follow-up visit was made in April 1988 by the Chairman of the Canadian Committee of Deans of Engineering and Applied Sciences Faculties. A co-operative agreement was worked out and signed by the Conférence des Grandes Ecoles and submitted to the Canadian Committee for signing at its next session on May 17, 1988. This agreement will undoubtedly increase Franco-Canadian liaisons and encourage closer ties at the level of industrial technology.

Co-operative directory

In order to increase co-operation at the levels of university and small- and medium-sized enterprises in the three sectors identified by the CMS (biotechnology, micro-electronics and new materials), the Canadian Department of External Affairs ordered a study in the spring of 1987 which would create a directory of co-operative research activities involving technological development which are in progress, under negotiation or prospective. This study, carried out on the one hand by the Centre Jacques Cartier in the Rhône-Alpes region and on the other, by the Canadian Association of Universities and Colleges and the Association of Provincial Research Organizations, has just been completed and could serve to orient future co-operation and establish the next Program of Activity.

TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES

Under the heading of technological exchanges, the most notable progress over the past two years has certainly been the additional support provided to the "Science and Technology" unit of the Canadian Embassy in Paris through the creation in April, 1987, of the position of "Technological Exchange Delegate". This individual's primary role will be to respond to requests of small- and medium-sized Canadian enterprises and industries in the area of technological exchanges. There were 71 such matters considered during the past nine months, 44% of which were in an advanced stage of progress, in terms of already operational technologies or co-operative R&D developmental activities between French and Canadian companies.