

Canadian interests in Greece. Eager to demonstrate his strong leadership and determination to secure Greece's prosperity, Papandreou set to work. Rolling up his sleeves, he convinced Canada that the time was right for cultivating a closer economic partnership with Greece, not only through growth in the traditional commercial and tourism sectors, but also via the development of the technological sector.

In the coming years, Greece worked hard to entice Canadian companies to invest in growing Greek markets and the country's expanding infrastructure. The campaign for Canadian investment paid quick dividends, as a number of large Canadian companies, including Denison Mines, De Havilland, and Bombardier, successfully competed for Greek contracts throughout the 1980s.²⁴ Denison Mines alone invested hundreds of millions of dollars towards petroleum exploration in the North Aegean during this period. Other well-established Canadian companies such as Air Canada, CP Air, the Bank of Nova Scotia, and the Royal Bank's Roy-Mideast established a physical presence in Greece, alongside the investment funds for major infrastructural projects provided by large Canadian banks.

Closer political and cultural partnerships followed in the wake of Papandreou's emotional return to Canada. A joint meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committees of the House of Commons and Senate resulted in the creation of the Canada-Greece Parliamentary Friendship Association, which united members of Parliament and senators from across the political spectrum to advance relations between Canada and Greece. Four years later, in October 1987, the former actress and Greek Minister of Culture, Melina Mercouri, visited Canada. In Ottawa, she signed an agreement to promote cultural exchanges, which "will do very great things for peace, the quality of life and the essence of life." In Toronto, she touched Canadian hearts. "I am very happy to be in Toronto," she enthused, her dark eyes brimming with tears. "It's a city that I adore".²⁵

A Lifting of Barriers

Bilateral political relations intensified with the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the end of the cold war. The election of a new conservative Greek government in April 1990 was followed by more political dialogue built on the back of a visit to Athens by Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark in May 1990. Conservative Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and his Greek counterpart, Konstantinos Mitsotakis met too at the Paris