



communiqué

No: 43
No.:

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: APRIL 29, 1981

OFFICIAL VISIT TO ITALY AND TALKS AT THE HOLY SEE,
OF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, MARK MACGUIGAN,
MAY 6 TO 8, 1981

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, announced today that following his participation in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ministerial meeting to be held in Rome on May 4 and 5, he will pay an official visit to Italy on May 6 and 7, at the invitation of the Foreign Affairs Minister of the Italian Republic, Emilio Colombo.

During the bilateral talks in Italy following the Venice Economic Summit in June 1980, Prime Minister Trudeau and the President of the Council, Francesco Cossiga, undertook to promote political and economic consultations between Italy and Canada. Dr. MacGuigan's visit will give visible expression to this common desire for consultation.

The two ministers will study ways of enhancing the already close relations between the two countries. The solidarity between the two peoples became particularly evident last fall, when thousands of Canadians spontaneously contributed to the relief effort for Southern Italy's earthquake victims. Italy is the country of origin of Canada's third largest cultural community, and is Canada's seventh biggest trade partner. Last December a convention on double taxation came into effect; it is expected that this will give a new boost to trade between the two countries.

The two ministers will conduct an exchange of views on the main international issues of common interest. They will discuss the preparations for the Economic Summit to be hosted by Canada this summer, and in which Italy will participate. As partners in NATO, they will review the status of East-West relations. In addition, they will examine ways of fostering the dialogue between the industrialized and the developing countries.