

CULTURAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN FRANCE & CANADA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The cultural activities envisaged by the new agreement have already begun through the Federal Government's programme of cultural exchanges with French-speaking countries. The programme came into existence in 1964 and now represents to the Federal Government annual expenditures of up to one million dollars. The development of the programme was the subject of talks between Canadian and French officials in Paris last September. Mr. Jean Basdevant, Director General of Cultural and Technical Affairs at the Quai d'Orsay, and Mr. Marcel Cadieux, Under Secretary of State for External Affairs, headed their respective delegations. During the talks, stock was taken of the existing cultural exchanges between France and Canada and measures to better coordinate such exchanges were considered. Also considered were new projects and the best means of developing them.

2. The following is a brief outline of the programme at present:

1. Academic Exchanges

- (a) Scholarships - The French Government increased the number of its scholarships available to Canadian students from 45 (for the period 1964-65) to 60 (for the period 1965-66) and has announced that it will increase the number further for the period 1966-67. The Canadian Government for its part has raised the number of scholarships available for French students from 28 (for the period 1964-65) to 100 (for the period 1965-66). Officials have agreed on the measures to be taken in common to ensure the fair selection of candidates.

The French Government is prepared to extend to Canadian students awarded grants in Canada for study in France the advantages of the French social security system when an appropriate arrangement between the two governments has been made.

- (b) Professors - France is prepared to receive some Canadian professors at the associate level each year to teach in French universities.

In return, Canadian universities, thanks to the Canadian Government Fellowship Programme, will be able to invite 12 French professors to lecture in Canada for various periods during the year 1965-66, and it is foreseen that more will be invited in 1966-67 in cooperation with the French authorities for various teaching periods.

- (c) Exchange of Language Teachers - France and Canada have agreed to study the possibility of an exchange of language teachers. Approximately 30 teachers of French would be received at Canadian institutions and the same number of Canadian English-speaking teachers would be received in French institutions.