

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE
CANADA/NETHERLANDS CULTURAL CONSULTATIONS
HELD IN**

OTTAWA, 27 AND 28 APRIL, 1994

On 27 and 28 April representatives of Canada and The Netherlands met in Ottawa for the purpose of reviewing their respective exchanges and programs in the field of post-secondary education, the arts and cultural industries, and for discussing future activities in these fields.

The Canadian Delegation was led by Mr. Alain Dudoit, Director General, Cultural Affairs and Higher Education Bureau, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade; the Netherlands Delegation was led by Mr. Hans Förster, Ambassador for International Cultural Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Lists of the full delegations are attached.

The Head of the Canadian Delegation welcomed the Netherlands Delegation to Ottawa and tabled a proposed agenda for the day. In his remarks he referred to the changing domestic and international environments as a result of recent policy developments and new government priorities, which will necessarily influence the discussions. Conditions had changed considerably since the last consultations in 1990, and it was important to adjust their thinking and their activities to new realities.

The Head of the Netherlands Delegation responded to the words of welcome and indicated the agreement of his delegation with the proposed agenda. He went on to say that the 50th. anniversary of the liberation of The Netherlands would be widely celebrated in 1994/95 in both The Netherlands and Canada with many events. The major role played by the Canadian Armed Forces played during the liberation, for which The Netherlands is still extremely grateful, will be one of the focal points during this commemoration period.

The Netherlands side handed over a copy of a policy note "International Cultural Relations" in which it is stated that views on the pursuit of international cultural relations are changing and that it is the government's task to create conditions in which individuals and institutes are encouraged to act independently in seeking and establishing contacts abroad ("Government at a distance").

The Netherlands side then noted the intensive cultural cooperation between The Netherlands and the Flemish Community in

