

For its part Canada in 1974 was pleased to play host to a number of French ministers: Jean Sauvagnargues (Foreign Affairs); Pierre Mazeaud (Youth and Sports); Simone Veil (Health); Norbert Segard (Secretary of State for External Trade); and General François Maurin, Chief of Staff of the French Armies.

Close co-operation also marked Canada-France relations within international organizations such as the UN, NATO, OECD, ICAO and the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation.

Benelux

1974 was an active year for Canadian diplomacy in the Benelux countries. All three—Belgium, Luxembourg and The Netherlands—are members of the European Community and the first two also form part of the Francophone group of countries. It was natural, therefore, that in 1974 Canada's efforts to diversify its international activities were marked by a number of high-level talks with representatives of all three countries on subjects of mutual concern.



The outstanding event of the year was Prime Minister Trudeau's trip to Brussels, where he visited the headquarters of the European Community and of NATO and also had discussions with Prime Ministers Tindemans of Belgium and Thorn of Luxembourg.

Mr. Trudeau's diplomatic activities in the Benelux countries supplemented those of Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs during the earlier part of 1974. Mr. Sharp conferred with Mr. Thorn, Luxembourg's Minister of External Affairs at the time, in Ottawa in April, and with Renaat Van Elslande of Belgium and Max Van der Stoep of The Netherlands in June. Mr. Sharp's successor, Mr. MacEachen, also met the Belgian and Netherlands ministers later in the year. Both showed particular interest in multilateral questions including the Canadian proposal for a contractual agreement with the European Community, defence problems, and the two major conferences—the MBFR and the CSCE—which were taking place in Europe at the time.

Following Jules Léger's appointment as Governor General of Canada, Lucien Lamoureux, former Speaker of the House of Commons, was named to succeed him as ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg. Luxembourg also appointed a new ambassador to Canada in the person of Adrien Meisch, a career diplomat.

Of special importance in the bilateral context was the signing of an air agreement with The Netherlands on June 17. It provided for the improvement of existing air links and for the initiation, when traffic requires it, of an air route between The Netherlands, West Indies and Canada.

Prime Minister Tindemans of Belgium greets Prime Minister and Mrs. Trudeau on arrival at Brussels airport. CP Photo.