

CULTURAL COOPERATION BETWEEN CANADA AND THE NETHERLANDS

Minutes of the discussion held in The Hague
The Netherlands, 13 - 15 March 1990

From 13 to 15 March 1990 talks were held in The Hague between the delegations representing the Netherlands and Canada during which educational and cultural cooperation program for 1990, 1991 and 1992 was agreed.

The Canadian delegation was headed by Mr. J.P. Juneau, Director General of the Western Europe Bureau of the Department of External Affairs.

The Netherlands delegation was headed by Mr. P.R. Brouwer, Ambassador for International Cultural Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The lists of members of both delegations are attached.

The Head of the Netherlands delegation opened the consultations with words of welcome and spoke of the broad longstanding political, economic and cultural relations with Canada. It goes without saying that the Netherlands is still deeply thankful for the major role the Canadian armed forces played during the liberation in 1945. A feat that accounts for the uniqueness of the close Canadian-Dutch relations. This year, from 1 to 8 May, the 45th anniversary of the liberation will be widely commemorated. Within the cultural sector he mentioned a memorable highlight in the past three years of the Cultural Program, the "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" theatre festival. Also an explanation was given of the organizational changes which have occurred in the field of international cultural policy in the Netherlands. At the end of the introduction the importance of educational and cultural ties between both countries was once more underlined.

Responding to the words of welcome the Head of the Canadian delegation recalled the close and special links since the Second World War between Canada and the Netherlands. He also noted the contribution by Canadians of Dutch origin to Canadian society and the growing economic partnership between the Netherlands and Canada. Within the cultural sector he underlined the steady development and broadening of cultural and educational exchanges between the two countries since the previous consultations. In this context, he emphasized the interest and willingness of Canada to participate in the new Europe of 1992.

During the discussions both parties agreed to the following educational and cultural cooperation program.