

between the two countries stemming from membership in NATO and the use of each other's training facilities.

Cultural relations with Britain were given increased emphasis with the renovation of Canada House to serve as a cultural and informational centre, equipped with facilities for recitals and exhibitions. A Chair of Canadian Studies was also established in 1974 at the University of Edinburgh through the joint efforts of the Canadian Government and British and Canadian industry.

Ireland

As almost 10 per cent of Canada's population is of Irish extraction, Canadian relations with Ireland have been historically close. A lack of contentious bilateral issues has, however, kept the profile low. In 1973-74 Ireland-Canada relations assumed greater importance because of Irish membership in the EEC and the rapidly increasing Canadian exports to and investment in Ireland. In percentage terms Ireland has been Canada's fastest-growing market within the EEC. Of these exports 60 per cent were in fabricated form and

24 per cent in end products. Canadian firms are involved in both mining and the development of offshore oil and gas deposits in the Irish Sea. While Ireland has a unique position as the only EEC country which is not a NATO member, similar interests are shared with Canada in peacekeeping and in the UN.

Immigration to Canada from Ireland decreased in 1974.

Nordic countries

Although the Nordic countries differ one from the other they share many common attitudes among themselves and with Canada. Norway, Denmark and Iceland, like Canada, are members of NATO, but Sweden and Finland pursue foreign policies of non-alignment. Denmark is the sole member of the EEC with which Canada has sought to establish a contractual link. Although certain differences occur, especially in fisheries and sealing matters, Canadian relations with each of the Nordic countries remain very friendly.

Canada and the Nordic area have a community of interests in regional and Arctic development, environmental



Prime Minister Olof Palme of Sweden with Prime Minister Trudeau during visit to Ottawa in October. CP Photo.