

Co-operation in space research was perhaps the most important element in Canada's scientific relations with the United States. During the year, efforts were made to identify new areas for joint activity in remote-sensing and related research. Agreement was reached on the continued use of the Churchill Research Range by the United States for the purpose of sounding-rocket launching and other scientific pursuits. Joint research programs on outer space and the upper atmosphere included balloon experiments for the investigation of the stratosphere and the magnetosphere, cosmic-dust studies and the exchange of sounding-rocket technology. Discussions were also held with the State Department and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for the purpose of improving the very important and intensive relations between NASA and several Canadian institutions.

Relations with China continued to develop by means of an informal program of scientific and technological exchanges. Two Canadian doctors spent three months in China studying acupuncture, and a team of medical experts on limb- and digit-reimplantation and burn-therapy were there for one month. In June, three aquaculture experts examined China's fish-culturing methods. Among the Chinese missions to visit Canada were a survey and mapping delegation and a group of satellite-communications experts from the Chinese Electronics Society.

Canadian scientific and technological co-operation with the Federal Republic of Germany was concentrated in areas identified at the 1975 meeting of the Joint Scientific Committee: marine science and technology, the geophysical sciences, sensor technology and data-processing. Meetings were held regarding district heating, occupational medicine, energy research, sewage-treatment and plastics technology. There were working groups on photogrammetry, radio-frequency management and nuclear safety, and experts on these subjects were exchanged. A meeting of Canadian and German experts held in Ottawa during August discussed the possibility of co-operation in biomedical technology.

The highly-productive relations with France continued throughout 1976. The Canada-France Joint Commission on Scientific Co-operation held its first meeting in Paris in March. Both sides agreed to continue activities currently under way and to develop new areas of co-operation, such as urban planning, agriculture and food technology, health and medical research, and natural-resource development. During a visit to Ottawa in October, Mr. Ségard, the French Minister of Postal, Telephone and Telegraph Services, examined the feasibility of collaboration with the Minister of Communications. An agreement was also signed by the Canada Centre for Remote-Sensing and the French Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales for the conducting of a series of joint experiments.

Relations with Belgium continued under the agreement for scientific, technological and industrial co-operation signed in 1971. While the Ministry of State for Science and Technology and the Belgian Service de la Programmation et Politique Scientifique have taken the lead, other federal departments and the ten provincial governments are also involved. Visits, exchanges of information and joint projects are under way, or are contemplated, in applied research and technology, data-processing, health policy, agriculture and information systems. In August, a Belgian delegation visited hospitals and other medical facilities in Ontario and Quebec.

Co-operation with countries of Eastern Europe continued under the Helsinki Accord. There are many active projects under the Canada-U.S.S.R. agreement on co-operation in the application of science and technology, with working groups in construction, forest-based industries, electric power, fossil fuels, transportation and agriculture. Visits by Soviet and Canadian scientists took place within the framework of the National Research Council/U.S.S.R. Academy of Science agreement. Canada's relations with the other countries of Eastern Europe are still in the exploratory stage. As a first major step, agreement was reached with Poland for a Canadian science delegation to visit Poland and a Polish medical