

Northwestern Europe

Budapest, W. T. Delworth, reflecting the importance of Canada's developing relations with Hungary.

Progress was also made in 1975 in Canada's relations with the German Democratic Republic. The signing of the Final Act of the CSCE in Helsinki on August 1 helped overcome difficulties standing in the way of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and the G.D.R. Thus, one of the first concrete results of the Helsinki conference was the agreement that was announced the same day to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Similarities of economic, environmental and social circumstances result in a general coincidence of views between Canada and the countries of Northwestern Europe. Whether because of a shared history or an often-parallel geography, this area evokes a special feeling and interest in Canadians. During 1975, the many ties continued to be actively reinforced by high-level visits, bilateral discussions and the signing of new agreements.

Britain

The broad scope and ease of relations between Canada and Britain stem not only from the shared heritage of a common historical background but also from a growing recognition of mutual interests and interdependence. For example, the decision of the British electorate in the June 1975 referendum to remain a member of the Common Market was more than a milestone in the development of Britain's relations with Europe; it confirmed at the same time that the developing ties between Canada and the European Community would reinforce and add another dimension to the complex *bilan* of Canada/Britain relations.

The fiftieth anniversary of Canada House in Trafalgar Square was celebrated during July. For that birthday celebration, the Lord Chancellor represented Prime Minister Wilson at a cake-cutting ceremony presided over by the new Canadian High Commissioner, Paul Martin, who took up his duties early in 1975.

The year saw an exchange of visits at the prime ministerial level. British Prime Minister Harold Wilson travelled to Ottawa in January for talks, accompanied by Foreign Secretary James Callaghan. Less than two months later Prime Minister Trudeau visited Britain, which provided an opportunity to elaborate on Canada's interest in establishing a contractual link with the European Community and to exchange views on other bilateral and international issues. During his stay, Mr. Trudeau was made a freeman of the City of London.

In October, Mr. MacEachen officially inaugurated the Chair of Canadian Studies at Edinburgh University and was later host at a *ceilidh* at Edinburgh Castle, where Nova Scotia Highland dancers performed. He also held talks in London with his British colleague, Mr. Callaghan.