

- the influence of France in European councils and its concern for resolving today's major world issues (détente, disarmament, North-South dialogue, Middle East etc.). Often, France and Canada have parallel interests,
- the leadership of France has exerted (along with the Federal Republic of Germany) in the European Communities.
- Canada's participation in Francophonie and the projection of Canada's image as a bilingual country in international fora,
- the existence of enormous energy reserves at a time of short supply, which makes Canada a country of major importance to its European partners,
- agreement that there is a need for closer co-ordination on economic and political matters at summit meetings attended by western countries.

In recent years bilateral relations between France and Canada have sparkled and this has underscored the usefulness of these new approaches. In addition to a great number of ministerial visits over the last several years several events have marked our cooperation. Among these were:

- the Ottawa meeting of the Economic Commission in January 1977,
- meetings of different working groups - the working group on industry and agriculture, and the working group on energy and primary products,
- meetings under the auspices of the 1965 Cultural Agreement; the Joint Commission on scientific and cultural training,
- the joint telescope project in Hawaii,
- the signature of protocol of understanding on television,
- the French-Canadian-American construction of a remote sensing centre in Upper Volta,
- bilateral consultations about Africa, disarmament, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe,