

Cultural Affairs Division

The Cultural Affairs Division was created in 1966 to formulate and execute Canada's cultural policies *vis-à-vis* foreign countries in accordance with directives of the Government and in co-operation with Canadian cultural agencies. The Division is organized in four sections: Agreements and Programs, Arts and Letters, Educational Liaison and International Organizations and Conferences.

Agreements and Programs Section

This Section negotiates agreements with countries designated by the Government, plans exchange programs within the framework of these agreements, prepares the operating budget of the Division, and forecasts the cultural activities and projects of the Department in all parts of the world. Once the programs are established and the objects of each project defined, the administration of the programs and the execution of the projects pass to the other appropriate sections. In performing its functions, the Section maintains the necessary liaison with the Canada Council, the National Arts Centre, the National Film Board, the National Gallery and Museums, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the National Research Council, and other agencies.

Since 1964 the Department of External Affairs has been implementing a program of cultural relations with countries wholly or partly French-speaking. The object of this program, pursuant to Government policy, is to stimulate bilingualism and biculturalism at the national level by promoting exchanges of all kinds with France, Belgium and Switzerland. In 1965 a cultural agreement was signed with France and in 1967 a similar agreement was signed with Belgium. Cultural exchange programs have been instituted with West Germany, Switzerland, Italy and the Netherlands, the lands of origin of many Canadians.

In 1969, an agreement on book exchange was signed with West Germany and an agreement on scientific exchange was signed with France. An agreement on the co-production of films was concluded with Italy.

The Department organized a conference, held in May at Montebello, Quebec, on Canadian cultural relations abroad, at which the Honorable Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, was the principal speaker; and a cultural tour was organized in September for the Honorable Gérard Pelletier, Secretary of State, to Britain, Belgium and Italy.

In accordance with the France-Canada Agreement of 1965, Canada participated in a meeting of the Franco-Canadian Joint Commission, held in February in Paris, on general questions of cultural exchanges. Mr. P. André Bissonnette, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, led the Canadian delegation. Canada also took part in a meeting of the Franco-Canadian Scientific Subcommission, held in November in Ottawa, on the terms and numbers of exchanges in 1970 and 1971 and on the possibilities of future development of scientific co-operation. Canada also participated in a meeting of governmental experts, held in Paris, on the equivalence of diplomas. Monseigneur Jacques Garneau, Director-General of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, led the