

## French prime minister visits Canada

French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy visited Canada April 22-27 for meetings with federal and provincial officials.

Mr. Mauroy was accompanied by French Minister of External Affairs Claude Cheysson and French Minister responsible to the Prime Minister for Parliamentary Affairs André Labarère.

The visit included talks with Quebec Premier René Lévesque, Ontario Premier William Davis and New Brunswick Premier Richard Hatfield.

Mr. Mauroy's visit followed one earlier in the week by French President François Mitterrand who stopped over in Vancouver for talks with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. Mr. Mitterrand, who was returning from a trip to Japan, discussed with Mr. Trudeau the agenda for the 1982 Economic Summit which will be held in France, June 4-6.

During his stay in Ottawa, the French Prime Minister was received by Governor General Edward Schreyer and held working sessions with Prime Minister Trudeau and other Cabinet ministers, including Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan, Minister of State for External Relations Pierre De Bané, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources



Prime Minister Trudeau (right) and Prime Minister Mauroy speak to reporters in Ottawa.

Marc Lalonde and Industry and Trade Minister Herbert Gray.

The ministers discussed Canada's interest in helping to produce a new European commercial airliner and possible French investment in the Arctic gas pilot projects.

At a press conference following their meetings, the two leaders expressed hope that a negotiated solution might be reached on the dispute of maritime boundary delimitations off the French island of St. Pierre and Miquelon.

Prime Minister Trudeau indicated that videotex systems, coal, gas and nuclear co-operation would be the subject of further discussions in the coming months. Their goal, said Mr. Mauroy, is to double trade between the two countries in coming years.

Total trade between Canada and France was \$1.82 billion in 1981. France was Canada's eighth most important trading partner with principal Canadian exports to France being wood pulp, lumber, minerals and chemicals. Principal Canadian imports from France include: beverages, transportation equipment, books, passenger automobiles, switchgear and protective equipment.

Prime Minister Mauroy said France wants to build normal ties with Canada while maintaining France's traditional interest in Quebec. He added that his country intends to continue and to strengthen its special relationship with Quebec based on long-standing language

and cultural ties. Mr. Mauroy said that France would also seek new ties with other Canadian provinces, especially those with significant Francophone populations.

Following his stay in Ottawa the French Prime Minister travelled to Toronto where he met with Premier William Davis and was guest of honour at a dinner hosted by the premier. Mr. Mauroy told those attending the dinner that it was only natural for France to want to "renew and revive" its ties with the 500 000 Franco-Ontarians who sought to preserve their linguistic and cultural identity.

While in Toronto, the French Prime Minister met with businessmen and representatives of Franco-Ontarian associations. Mr. Mauroy also toured the Ontario Science Centre.

In Moncton, New Brunswick at an official dinner given by Premier Richard Hatfield, Prime Minister Mauroy emphasized France's particular interest in the Acadians as descendants of the first French settlers.

### Quebec visit

During a three-day visit to Quebec, the French Prime Minister travelled to the Saquenay region, Montreal and Quebec City.

In Quebec City, both at a luncheon speech and before the National Assembly, the French Prime Minister spoke in particularly warm terms of the close ties

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A Royal Canadian Mounted Police constable salutes Mr. and Mrs. Mauroy as they arrive at Prime Minister Trudeau's residence for a dinner.