

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today that the Canada-Tunisia Joint Commission held its second session in Ottawa from June 8 to 10.

The Tunisian delegation was led by the Honourable Chedly Ayari, Tunisian Secretary of State for Planning, and included Dr. Abdelaziz Hamzaoui, Tunisian Ambassador to Canada, and senior officials. The Canadian delegation was led by Mr. Sharp and included Mr. Jean-Pierre Goyer, his Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. d'Iberville Fortier, the Canadian Ambassador to Tunisia, and senior officials.

At the opening session the Heads of the delegations remarked on the excellent relations existing between the two countries. Mr. Sharp took the occasion to say that he was happy to learn that President Bourguiba had returned to his people after a long absence.

After discussing international questions and problems of mutual interest, the Commission reviewed most of the problems of particular interest to the two countries in their bilateral relations. The programme of economic and technical co-operation, trade relations, cultural relations and immigration were analysed in depth. The Commission looked at the present situation in all of these fields and agreed on the directions which will be followed in the future.

The discussions took place in a friendly atmosphere which forecasts an even closer working relationship between the two countries in the future.

Mr. Ayari took advantage of his stay in Ottawa to meet Mr. Sharp; the Secretary of State, the Honourable Gérard Pelletier; the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Honourable Jean-Luc Pepin; and Mr. Maurice Strong, President of the Canadian International Development Agency.