

Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, called on President Gaston Thorn and Vice-President Wilhelm Haferkamp on 19 May 1982. The Minister reviewed with President Thorn a number of multilateral economic issues on the agenda of the Versailles Summit. Vice-President Haferkamp and Dr. MacGuigan discussed the recent quadrilateral trade discussions held near Paris and examined a number of current bilateral issues including fisheries, the seal hunt, asbestos, footwear and provincial liquor control board policies. In a separate visit to the incumbent Council President, Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans, Mr. MacGuigan underlined the importance which Canada attaches to cooperation with the European Community on a variety of subjects, including Political Cooperation.

The World Symposium on Asbestos took place in Montreal, May 24-27, under the co-sponsorship of the governments of Canada and Quebec and the European Commission. This arose from work done on the asbestos issue within the Industrial Cooperation Sub-Committee, under the Canada/EC Framework Agreement. The Symposium was attended by over 700 scientists and doctors as well as representatives of government, industry and trade unions from 49 countries. In closing the Symposium, its Secretary General Jacques Dunnigan noted that the asbestos issue has given rise to major differences of opinion and analysis within all groups of participants. To the question as to whether society can live with asbestos there was no clear answer. The Symposium set aside the banning of asbestos as a solution, but it did issue a warning, and it defined requirements with respect to the application of a rigorous and continual control of asbestos through all phases of its mining, processing, transport, manufacturing and handling. The Symposium also called for extensive research and analysis of epidemiological data to fill the numerous gaps in our knowledge.



*Dr. MacGuigan welcomed by Vice-President Haferkamp*

On June 3, the Minister of Agriculture for the Province of Ontario, Dennis Timbrell, called on the Commission for a series of meetings during which Canada/EC agricultural relations of particular interest to Ontario were reviewed, notably liquor control boards, grain screenings, and Commission proposals for changes in the Common Agricultural Policy.

On May 11, a group of 24 high level Canadian business executives travelling under the auspices of the Canadian Institute for International Affairs had a series of meetings at the Commission. The visitors, who were chief executives of major Canadian corporations, were met by Vice-President Etienne Davignon and were given briefings by senior Commission officials on EC reform, current trade policy issues and European Political Cooperation. One of the objectives of the Canada/EC Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation is to encourage the exchange of infor-