

Anglo-Canadian relations in 1971, further developments of significance took place in other fields. The two governments, for example, concluded an agreement under which Canadian defence facilities at Suffield, Alberta, would be made available to British military units for training purposes. During the year, the Honourable John Turner, Minister of Justice, the Honourable Donald Macdonald, Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Robert Stanbury, Minister of Communications, and the Honourable Allastair Gillespie, Minister of State for Science and Technology, went to London for talks on subjects within their respective spheres of responsibility with members of the British Government. The Prime Minister himself had planned to go to Britain in September for a meeting with Mr. Heath, but had to postpone his visit because of the international economic situation. Mr. Heath paid a brief, informal visit to Ottawa in December. In addition, the Right Honourable Geoffrey Rippon, Britain's chief negotiator for the Common Market, and the Right Honourable Michael Noble, British Minister of Trade, visited Canada earlier in the year, while the Canada/United Kingdom Continuing Committee, a body of senior officials, held its annual meeting in Ottawa in December to discuss bilateral trade issues and trade questions and to review world economic developments. On private initiative, a large group of Canadian and British businessmen, academics, journalists and officials held a conference in Britain in September to examine the present condition and future direction of Anglo-Canadian relations in various fields. This was the first time that such a meeting had been organized, and was a further indication of the increased interest in both countries in their relations with one another. Much of the discussion was appropriately devoted to the extensive contact, exchanges and co-operation that take place between Canada and Britain outside of official channels since they occupy a very significant place in the total fabric of the Anglo-Canadian relations.

As in the past, Canada continued in 1971 to maintain close contact with Ireland through the normal diplomatic channels and the visits between the two countries of officials, businessmen and citizens from various walks of life. The warmth of the relations rests on the ties of history, shared traditions and Ireland's contribution to Canada's cultural heritage. It has been further sustained and nourished by the mutual benefits of a growing trade with one another and of increasing investment by Canadian firms in Ireland. In addition, Canada and Ireland share similar concerns over many international questions of importance, often find it profitable to exchange views on them, and are closely associated in the United Nations peacekeeping operations in Cyprus and the Middle East.

Canada shares with the Nordic countries a number of common interests in international affairs and both federal and provincial ministers and officials often compare notes with them on such domestic issues as northern development, social legislation, transportation and pollution. Within the NATO context, Canada also maintains close co-operation with Norway, Denmark and Iceland, and in February the Minister of National Defence went to Oslo to discuss defence and related questions with the Norwegian Government. Later in the year, during a visit to the Canadian North, he had conversations of a general nature with Danish authorities in Greenland. As a reflection of Canadian interest in social questions in Scandinavia, the Solicitor General visited various penal institutions in Sweden, Norway and Denmark and held discussions on penal reform with the government ministers and officials concerned.