

PRESS RELEASE



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FRANCO-CANADIAN CULTURAL AGREEMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, announced the signing today by the French Ambassador, His Excellency François Leduc, and himself, of the first general cultural agreement between France and Canada.

The new agreement aims at establishing in the light of current conditions a framework for carrying out cooperation in the cultural field between France and Canada. This initiative is in accord with the desire for a policy of close cooperation between the two countries expressed by General de Gaulle and the Prime Minister during their meeting in Paris in January 1964.

The agreement consists of a preamble, 11 articles and an exchange of letters. The aims of the agreement as set out in the preamble are to strengthen the traditional ties of Franco-Canadian friendship by developing cultural, scientific, technical and artistic exchanges, and so to contribute to the strengthening of the traditional bonds of friendship between Canada and France.

The means whereby these ends are to be achieved are outlined in the 11 articles of the agreement. Exchanges are to be carried out in the academic, artistic, scientific and cultural fields, and will involve films, television, radio and publications. A Franco-Canadian joint commission will be set up to facilitate this increased cooperation, to examine how the present agreement can be best implemented, and in particular to draw up a programme for submission to the two Governments.