

Within the context of the activities of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (AGECOOP), Canada participated in the "French-speaking Community Month" held in Liège in September. During the three days devoted to Canada, the provinces co-operated with the Federal Government in presenting exhibitions and information programs on aspects of the Canadian culture, economy and society.

The second meeting of the Joint Commission set up under the terms of the 1971 Agreement on Scientific, Industrial and Technological Co-operation was held in Belgium in December. The participants prepared the program for 1974 and outlined possibilities for co-operation in industry, health, social affairs, the environment and science.

Canadian exports to the Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union increased by 48.7 per cent between January and August, compared to the same period in 1972, while imports from these countries increased by 15.1 per cent. Belgian investments continued to provide a welcome stimulus in key sectors of the Canadian economy.

Luxembourg

Canada strengthened its relations during the year by officially receiving Luxembourg's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gaston Thorn, in February.

Switzerland and Austria

Relations continued close and harmonious, as indicated by the number of Canadian representatives from all levels of government who visited these countries officially.

Trade and investment play an important role in Canada's relations with Switzerland. Canadian exports to Switzerland increased considerably during 1973. In addition, Swiss firms continued to show keen interest in the possibility of joint projects with Canadian firms.

Italy

Throughout 1973, there were numerous opportunities for Canadian-Italian co-operation in various multilateral contexts, including NATO, the United Nations and the OECD. Of special interest and importance to Canada were the exchanges of view on questions relating to East-West *détente* and development in the European Community.

Trade between Canada and Italy continued to increase, attaining a value of over \$500 million in both directions, with a slight balance in Canada's favour — a new record for annual trade between the two countries.

Immigration to Canada from Italy increased to well over 5,000 (Italo-Canadians now constitute about 4 per cent of the Canadian population). As usual, large numbers of Canadian tourists visited Italy.

As part of a series of meetings that have been held since 1971, a delegation of senior Italian

officials visited Ottawa in June to discuss with their Canadian counterparts practical matters including social security questions involving immigrants from Italy.

In August, while visiting Canadian war memorials in Europe, Canada's Minister of Veteran Affairs, Daniel J. MacDonald, participated in commemorative ceremonies at the Senio River and Monte Cassino in Italy. Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan visited Italy in November as part of a tour to several European countries to discuss marketing agricultural goods.

During the year, there was also further progress toward the final ratification of a film co-production agreement.

Canada's relations with the Holy See were established in 1970. During 1973 many valuable exchanges of view took place on such global problems as food supply, population growth, the need for humanitarian assistance programs and East-West *détente*. His Holiness the Pope granted an audience to Veterans Affairs Minister MacDonald in August.

Federal Republic of Germany

Relations between Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany continued to develop favourably in 1973.

A highlight was the official visit in September of the Federal Republic's Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister, Walter Scheel. He and Mitchell Sharp, the Secretary of State for External