

European investors in Canada. Two-way trade increased slightly during the year; exports to the Netherlands amounted to \$1.01 billion, while imports totalled \$754 million. A social security agreement was signed in February 1987. A major Dutch cultural festival in Canada in 1987 was notably successful. There were a number of visits by ministers of both countries, as well as a visit to the Netherlands by two groups of parliamentarians.

As members of the French-speaking community, Belgium and Luxembourg participated in the Francophone Summit in Quebec in September 1987. Canada participated in the Flanders International Technological Fair, held at Ghent in May. In October, a memorandum of understanding on defence industrial co-operation was signed and a joint cultural commission was held in Brussels. Visits by ministers of both countries also took place.

The Nordic countries

The past year was fruitful in terms of bilateral visits and exchanges with all the Nordic countries. The King of Norway and the King of Sweden both made state visits to Canada, while Iceland's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Hermannsson, on his visit to Ottawa in September 1987, met with Tom Siddon, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Paul Dick, Associate Minister of National Defence, and Joe Clark. The Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Stoltenberg, visited Canada in May and Mr. Clark made an official visit to Norway in December 1987. The Minister of Employment and Immigration, Benoit Bouchard, visited Sweden in October and the Danish Minister of Labour, Mr. Dyremose, came to Canada in February. A number of officials came to Canada for the Calgary Olympics and took advantage of their visit to meet with their Canadian counterparts. They included the Speaker of the Finnish Parliament, Mr. Ahde, and the Norwegian Minister of Cultural and Scientific Affairs, Mr. Bakke. The Finnish Prime Minister, Mr. Holkere, also met with Mr. Clark at the time of the Olympic Games. There were a number of exchanges at the provincial and territorial levels, and trade and scientific visits took place in both directions. In addition, groups of parliamentarians travelled to the Nordic countries to discuss issues of common interest.

In the context of the development of Arctic policy, one aspect of which is closer co-operation with its Nordic partners, Canada participated in a conference on circumpolar issues held at Tromsø, Norway, where Joe Clark delivered an important speech on Canada's intentions. In order to strengthen ties with Greenland, which is under Danish jurisdiction, Canada appointed an honorary consul at Nuuk in June.

Bilateral trade relations between Canada and the Nordic countries continued to be important and the volume of trade reached \$2.4 billion. Special efforts were made with respect to the promotion of investment and technology transfer. In February Finland's Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr. Salolainen, met in Ottawa with Mr. de Cotret, Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology. One subject discussed was the signing of an exchange of letters on science and technology. Sweden's largest visiting business delegation visited four Canadian provinces in March. Two Canadian trade missions

travelled to the Nordic countries to promote Canadian electronic products, and Canadian business people participated in the aquaculture fair held in Trondheim in August. A Norwegian scientific mission visited Canada in November 1987 to discuss the implementation of the exchange of letters signed between the two countries in December 1986. The Canada-Norway working group on offshore resources pursued its work, and a Norwegian delegation visited Canada in September 1987.

Several Canadian writers participated in literary seminars in the Nordic countries, and Scandinavian painters, photographers and sculptors exhibited their works in Canada. The major cultural event of the year was the conference on Canadian Studies held at Lund, Sweden, in August. A number of sports teams participated in tournaments held in the Nordic countries.

Spain and Portugal

Canada's bilateral trade with Spain and Portugal continued to increase in 1987, reaching a total of \$957 million. The King of Spain attended the Olympics in Calgary in February. Discussions are proceeding with Spain on possible bilateral agreements on cultural exchanges, scientific and technological co-operation, and defence co-operation. Canada confirmed with Portugal an agreement to provide the sonar equipment required for new Portuguese frigates.

Turkey

Trade between Canada and Turkey continued to flourish in 1987 with two-way trade rising to \$344 million. Canadian exports amounted to \$266 million, a 33 per cent increase over 1986. Canadian companies are pursuing projects estimated at nearly \$2 billion in Turkey in fields as diverse as the education sector and defence. A feature in the year was a visit to Ankara by the Minister of Transport, John Crosbie, who met with Prime Minister Ozal and three of his senior ministers. The visit reinforced the bilateral relationship substantially and provided an opportunity to promote Canadian commercial interests in Turkey. The Turkish government continues to indicate its interest in acquiring a CANDU nuclear reactor. A Canadian firm is the leading contender to build a heavy rail transit system for the Turkish capital.

Switzerland

Canada's bilateral trade with Switzerland totalled over one billion dollars in 1987, an increase of more than \$150 million over the previous year. Switzerland ranks seventh among foreign investors in Canada. Relations between the two countries continued to grow with the conclusion of two new agreements, one on nuclear co-operation, signed December 22, 1987, and the other on cinematographic and audiovisual relations, signed at Berne on October 22, 1987, by Flora MacDonald, Minister of Communications, who was in Switzerland at the time to represent Canada at the international TELECOM 87 fair in Geneva.

The Minister of Finance, Michael Wilson, visited Zurich in November and met with financial and banking executives to describe the benefits of investing in Canada. He also headed the Canadian delegation to the Davos Symposium, accompanied by Robert de Cotret, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, and by a number of provincial and business representatives.