



FRANCE-CANADA RELATIONS

Relations between France and Canada are productive and friendly. The two countries maintain ongoing contacts through the numerous visits made by their leaders in a bilateral or multilateral framework. For example, in June 1995, President Jacques Chirac participated in the G-7 Summit in Halifax and took the opportunity to hold bilateral meetings with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. The two leaders met again in Cotonou at the Francophone Summit in December 1995. They both took part in the Peacemakers' Summit in Charm el-Cheikh (Egypt), and, more recently, in the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security in Moscow. They will meet again at the G-7 Summit in Lyon. In January, Governor General Roméo LeBlanc represented Canada in Paris at the funeral of former French President François Mitterrand. Shortly after his appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lloyd Axworthy met with his French counterpart, Hervé de Charette, on a visit to Paris. In addition, numerous visits are made by ministers and senior officials from both countries.

France and Canada co-operate closely within many international bodies such as the United Nations, the G-7, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and la Francophonie. Canada and France have established an ongoing dialogue on a number of subjects of mutual interest, including peacekeeping forces in Haiti and Bosnia, strengthening transatlantic ties, and disarmament.

Following the delimitation of the sea frontiers between Canada and France off Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, a fisheries agreement was signed in Paris by prime ministers Jean Chrétien and Édouard Balladur. Fisheries officials in both countries are working together productively to implement the agreement. An agreement promoting regional co-operation between Atlantic Canada and Saint-Pierre and Miquelon was also concluded in 1994, and the joint commission established by that agreement, which is made up of representatives of the different levels of government and of the private sector, met in May 1996.

Cultural co-operation between France and Canada is planned at the governmental level in the framework of the cultural agreement of 1965 and of numerous exchange programs. Some 15 centres for Canadian studies help substantially to raise Canada's profile in France. Moreover, the two countries have established a special partnership in the audiovisual field, by signing co-production agreements and co-operating in connection with the TV-5 channel and the multimedia field. The renovation of the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris will help to make the city a focal point for Canadian culture in France and the rest of Europe. The Canada-France Joint Commission on Scientific Interchanges held a meeting in May 1996 to boost relations in this state-of-the-art field.

.../2

