

### EC-Canada meeting in Ottawa

Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson, and the President of the Commission of the European Communities Roy Jenkins co-presided March 8 in Ottawa over the second meeting of the Joint Co-operation Committee set up in accordance with the Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Co-operation between Canada and the European Communities, which entered into force on October 1, 1976.

Mr. Jenkin's first visit to Canada also included brief stops in Vancouver, British Columbia and Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The Committee reviewed the various economic and commercial co-operation activities carried out since its first meeting and approved a report which was made public during the meeting. The sectors covered include forest products (timber-frame construction and pulp and paper), telecommunications (peri-informatics), aerospace, nuclear, coal, iron ore and steel, non-ferrous metals industries and, more generally, minerals and metals. The report also refers to the ongoing study on



*Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson (left) welcomes President of the Commission of the European Communities Roy Jenkins on his arrival in Ottawa.*

trade flows between Canada and the Community and reviews the state of co-operation in the fields of environment and science and technology.

The Committee, which confirmed the existing work program for 1977-78, decided that its next meeting would be held in Brussels at a date yet to be arranged.

### Governor General in Spain

Governor-General Jules Léger and Mrs. Léger, on a state visit to Spain, March 13 and 14, were the guests of honour at a state dinner given by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia at the Royal Palace in Madrid. Earlier, the Governor General had reviewed a guard of honour during a 21-gun salute. Mr. and Mrs. Léger were accompanied on their trip by Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson

and Mrs. Jamieson.

The Governor General met Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez and visited the Madrid City Hall, where he was presented with the keys to the city, the Cortes and the Prado museum. At the new Palza Colon Cultural Centre, the Orford Quartet, a Canadian group, gave a performance in honour of the visitors.

Following the official part of the visit, the Légers travelled to Avila, Toledo and Aranjuez, on the outskirts of Madrid. They spent Palm Sunday in Sevilla, the capital of the Andalusia.

tion of Professor John Ruedy, head of the pharmacology and therapeutics department, with the collaboration of international experts, is concerned with the health of individuals in the Cree Indian communities of northwest Quebec, particularly Great Whale, Fort George, Mistassini and Waswanipi.

The two-year investigation will cost about \$400,000, to be shared equally by the Federal Government, the government of Quebec and the Donner Canadian Foundation. The Cree Regional Board of Health and Social Affairs will be involved in all stages of the project.

Numerous studies already carried out across Canada, and in Quebec in particular, have not been able to determine which neurological signs and symptoms have resulted specifically from mercury contamination and which are from other factors combined with mercury contamination, such as the abuse of medications, the presence of disease, or malnutrition.

For this reason, an epidemiological study is needed to identify specifically the effects of methyl-mercury intake on populations exposed to the substance, by comparing them with a control group that has not been so exposed.

### Effects of mercury studied

A joint epidemiological study on the effects of eating mercury-contaminated fish, to be undertaken in certain Indian communities in Quebec, was announced recently by Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin, Quebec Social Affairs Minister Denis Lazure and Donald Rickerd, president of the Donner Canadian Foundation.

The study, to be conducted by Montreal's McGill University under the direc-



*Mr. and Mrs. Léger*

M. Bedford