

Cultural affairs

In October, on the occasion of the inauguration of the Chair of Canadian Studies at the University of Edinburgh, the Secretary of State for External Affairs announced a five-year plan to expand and diversify Canada's cultural relations with other countries. The impetus for the program is twofold. There is a need to meet the growing requirements of current and expected exchange arrangements with other countries and to reflect in Canada's foreign policy the depth and creativity of its cultural life. This international projection will also be "a new way of testing the qualities of our own achievements as a nation", according to Mr. MacEachen.

International cultural exchanges benefit Canadian artists and academics and provide new opportunities to make Canadian cultural achievements better known abroad. The Department's current programs cover exchanges of persons, overseas tours by performing companies, art exhibitions, book donations, special events such as "Canada Weeks", and festivals and international artistic competitions in which Canada is represented. These activities are administered abroad by Canadian embassies and by the Canadian cultural centres in Paris, Brussels and London.

Cultural agreements and programs

A cultural agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany was signed on March 3, 1975. Canada has similar agreements with Italy, France and Belgium, and a general exchanges agreement with the U.S.S.R. that includes a number of articles related to cultural relations. The Canada-Soviet Mixed Commission met in Moscow in November to negotiate the program of scientific, academic and cultural exchanges to take place between the two countries during 1976 and 1977.

Also in 1975, the first meeting of the Mixed Commission under the Canadian-Belgian Cultural Agreement took place in December to work out exchanges between the two countries in 1976. The seventh meeting of the Canada-France Mixed Commission was held in Paris in May.

An agreement for the co-production of films was signed by Britain and Canada on September 12. It is hoped that the film-makers of both countries will benefit from the opportunity to pool their experience and resources in joint cinematic ventures.

The Canadian Cultural Institute in Rome, a foundation established in 1954 to facilitate exchanges with Italy, continued a varied program of activities in 1975 in the fields of academic study, music, literature and photography.

Artistic exchanges and cultural promotion

As a salute to the United States in its Bicentennial year, the Department arranged a special festival of Canadian performing arts at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., from October 13 to 26. The two-week event included: a varied program by the Royal Winnipeg Ballet; George Bernard Shaw's *The Devil's Disciple*, by the Shaw Festival; *Riel*, a Canadian music-drama by Mavor Moore and Harry Somers, performed by the Canadian Opera Company; the National Arts Centre's production of Offenbach's *La Belle Hélène*; individual concerts by Monique Leyrac, Maureen Forrester, the Société du Musique Contemporaine de Québec, the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir with the Canadian Brass, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra; a series of films; and various art exhibits.

Under continuing programs of cultural relations with foreign countries, the Department subsidized tours by the National Arts Centre Orchestra (Mexico), the National Ballet of Canada (England and the Netherlands), Young People's Theatre (England), the Orford String Quartet (the U.S.S.R., Romania, Italy and Yugoslavia), the Lyric Trio (Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Belgium, France and Britain), the Neptune Theatre Company and CODCO (the United States) and Le Théâtre du Nouveau Monde (France, Belgium, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Senegal and the Ivory Coast). In addition, a number of individual performers were given travel grants to enable them to compete in music festivals and to attend symposiums on the arts.

As a member of the Consultative Committee of the Film Festivals Bureau of the Department of the Secretary of State, the Department continued to participate in the choice of Canadian films for international competitions and "Canada Film Weeks". As a follow-up to the series of Soviet films screened in Canada last year, the Department will provide travel expenses to Canadian film-makers visiting the U.S.S.R. for a Canadian Film Festival early in 1976.