

Canadian relations with Italy have continued to be close and harmonious. The Secretary of State for External Affairs visited Rome in April with a view to pursuing his consultations with member states of the European Economic Community on some problems envisaged for Canada as a result of the proposed enlargement of the Community. On this occasion, he held discussions with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and other ministers and their officials. Also in April, the Prime Minister of Quebec, who was in Italy to speak with senior industrial leaders, was received by the Prime Minister of Italy. The Italian Minister of Agriculture and Forestry was in Ottawa the same month in connection with a conference in Canada of the Italian Academy of Biological and Moral Sciences. In September, the Italian Under-Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs for Immigration came to Canada to review problems related to Italian immigration, and the Italian Minister of the Merchant Marine, accompanied by officials and 36 Italian parliamentarians, visited port facilities in Montreal.

Canadian relations with the Vatican were marked by a visit to the Holy See by the Secretary of State for External Affairs in April. In a private audience with the Pope, a wide-ranging discussion took place on current international problems. This was the first meeting between the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Pope since the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Following the official visit to Canada by Turkey's Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1970, regular co-operation between the two countries has been maintained, particularly within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Relations with Greece continue to receive close attention.

Canada's relations with Spain and Portugal were the subject of considerable attention during the year. There was a noteworthy growth of over 15 per cent in Canadian exports to Spain. Canadian views favouring self-determination for the Portuguese colonies in Africa were made clear to the Portuguese Foreign Minister in bilateral discussions with Mr. Sharp held before the NATO meeting in Lisbon in June.

Northwestern European Division

Canada's relations with Britain are undergoing a process of evolution. This has been brought about in part by a reorientation of the policies of both countries, prompted, in turn, by changing circumstances and conditions in international affairs. Consequently, while kinship and membership in the Commonwealth continue to play a valuable part in the close, varied and complex ties between Canada and Britain, it is equally recognized that further efforts should be made to develop their bilateral relations on the basis of new interests and in the light of the mutual practical advantages to be achieved by still closer co-operation. British entry into the European Communities has helped to focus additional attention on the importance of bilateral relations and, as an extension of a continuing dialogue, Canadian Ministers and officials on a number of occasions during the year examined with their British counterparts the implications for Canada of this major change in direction of British foreign policy. These discussions took full account of the particular concerns and objectives of both governments, successfully preserved the cordial relations between Britain and Canada, and influenced to some degree the terms of British entry on products of interest to Canada. If this issue tended to dominate