

## First visit to Canada of a Portuguese prime minister

Prime Minister Francisco Pinto Balsemão of Portugal was in Canada October 4-6, marking the first time a Portuguese prime minister has officially visited this country. He was accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Vasco Caldeira Futscher Pereira; Minister of Trade, Agriculture and Fisheries Basilio Horta; President of the regional government of the Azores João Bosco Mota Amaral; as well as several other senior officials of the government of Portugal.

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who welcomed the Portuguese delegation at the Toronto International Airport, was host at a "working luncheon" in a downtown hotel, and the same evening gave a state dinner for the Portuguese prime minister.

While in Toronto, Mr. Balsemão called on Ontario Premier William Davis, gave a joint press interview with Mr. Trudeau and visited members of the Portuguese-Canadian community and leaders of the cultural program in Canada. He was accompanied in the latter case by federal Multiculturalism Minister James Fleming.

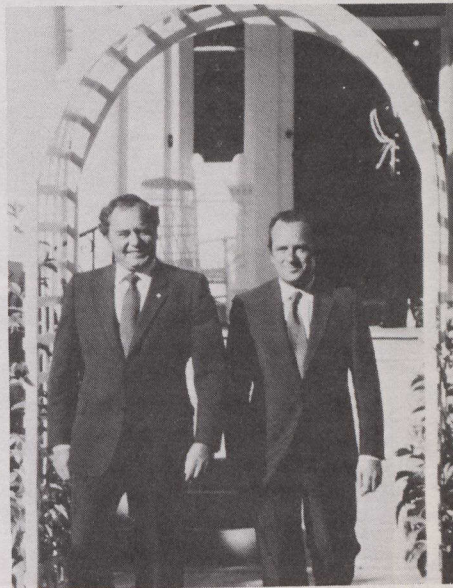
The following day, in Ottawa, Mr. Balsemão again met with Mr. Trudeau and other members of the Cabinet. Discussions covered bilateral relations, as well as the two countries' shared role within multilateral organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. They also exchanged views on international issues of mutual concern.

### Trade

The possibility of expanding and diversifying trade was another topic under discussion. Agriculture and high technology were two areas touched on in the talks. Among Portuguese exports to Canada are vegetables and vegetable byproducts, rope products, wine, fish, household articles and fabrics. These exports have increased during the past few years; they rose from a value of \$51.7 million in 1980 to \$52.3 million in 1981.

Canada's main exports to Portugal include fish, wheat, asbestos, zinc, grain and vegetable oils.

After a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan MacEachen, Mr. Balsemão attended a luncheon given by the National Press Club. In the afternoon of October 5 he was received by Governor General Edward Schreyer at Government House.



René de la Mauvinière

*Governor General Schreyer (left) receives Portuguese Prime Minister Balsemão during his visit to Canada last month.*

Relations between Portugal and Canada have always been cordial and new ties have been formed by Portuguese emigration to this country. Closer relations have been furthered by Portugal's presence in and loyalty toward NATO.

The number of Canadians of Portuguese origin is estimated to be over 300 000, most of whom live in Ontario, although there are also large communities in Montreal and, more recently, in the West. At present the embassy in Lisbon issues some 3 500 visas a year.

Cultural relations between Portugal and Canada are increasing. An annual exchange of teachers takes place, especially in the humanities, and of scholarships at the post-university level. Three Canadians, prizewinners at the National Festival of Music in London in 1982, have been invited to Lisbon, as has the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. The Portugal-Canada Association of Lisbon and similar associations in Montreal and Toronto have made possible visits by musicians, painters and theatre troupes, including visits by Canadian pianist Spasovski to Vila Real/Lisbon and by the Cascais experimental theatre to Toronto. The Gulbenkian Foundation and the National Gallery of Canada are pursuing an effective policy of co-operation.

In 1980 the two countries signed a social security agreement, and at present, the terms of a double taxation agreement are being studied.

## Record grain sale to the USSR

The Canadian Wheat Board recently announced the signing of its largest-ever single grain deal.

Over the next nine months, Canada has agreed to sell 7.6 million tonnes of grain, worth between \$1.3 and \$1.5 billion, to the USSR.

The agreement will be financed by cash from the Soviet Union and a \$1-billion line of credit guaranteed by the Canadian federal government.

Under a long-term agreement signed in May 1981, the USSR had agreed to purchase a minimum of 25 million tonnes of grain from Canada over five years. In the first year of the agreement, they were committed to buy four million tonnes but owing to crop failures in the USSR, they purchased 7.8 million tonnes of Canadian grain. During the period of the new agreement, the USSR had been committed to take 4.5 million tonnes.

In announcing the sale, Senator Hazen Argue, minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, said he was confident the Wheat Board would make additional sales this year.

## Germany buys sound system

International Trade Minister Gerald Regan has announced that Canadian Commercial Corporation had received a contract worth \$1 116 914 from the Federal Republic of Germany for the supply of 4 000 AN/SSQ-41B Sonobuoys, manufactured by Hermes Electronics Limited of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

Sonobuoys are air-launched expendable devices designed to transmit information concerning underwater movement and sound.

Hermes has achieved international recognition as a manufacturer of sophisticated products in the field of submarine detection devices, communications and ocean data systems. Production and delivery of the Sonobuoys are scheduled over seven months and will provide an estimated 42 000 person hours of employment.

Canadian Commercial Corporation contracts with foreign governments and international agencies on behalf of Canadian producers of goods and services. In 1981-82, the corporation achieved sales of over \$550 million, involving 435 Canadian suppliers and more than 50 foreign customers.