

CANADA-TURKEY BILATERAL RELATIONS

Bilateral relations between Canada and Turkey are excellent. In addition to a sound and growing bilateral relationship, the two countries are linked by common interests in such multilateral fora as NATO, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), the UN and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, visited Turkey in November 1990 for talks with his counterpart, Foreign Minister Alptemoçin, Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut and President Turgut Özal. The visit afforded a valuable opportunity to review bilateral relations and exchange views on issues of common concern, such as the Gulf Crisis, the Cyprus question and the evolving political and economic situation in Europe and the Soviet Union. Foreign Minister Alptemoçin's visit to Canada (February 25 to 27, 1991) for meetings with Prime Minister Mulroney and Minister Clark will follow up and intensify the growing political dialogue between Canada and Turkey.

Canada and Turkey have also enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial trading relationship. Major Canadian companies such as Northern Telecom have direct investments in Turkey, while others such as Lavalin/UTDC have formed joint ventures for the successful pursuit of major projects such as the Ankara Urban Transit Project (Metro). Canadian companies are well placed to develop many new projects with Turkish counterparts. Two-way total trade for the period January to October 1990 amounted to C\$201 million (\$130 million in exports to Turkey; \$71 million in imports from Turkey).

Bilateral treaties and new areas for co-operation between the two countries are increasing. Canada and Turkey signed a Transfer of Offenders Agreement in 1989. Negotiations are presently under way to conclude a double taxation and police co-operation agreement.