

to touch briefly on some of the ways in which the Governments of Canada and Italy cooperate to mutual advantage.

Reflecting the fact that Canada and Italy both have common interests in the defence and security field, our two countries are active members of NATO, a forum which provides for continuous consultation and cooperation not only on strictly defence matters but also on a host of related political, economic, social and technological subjects. The United Nations provides a framework for useful exchanges of views between Canada and Italy on an even more diverse range of interests. In the context of East-West relations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, popularly known as the CSCE, is an especially significant forum for tangible cooperation between Canada and Italy, because our two countries have made strong commitments to participating in collective efforts to lower the tension-producing barriers between East and West. This very subject figured prominently in the discussions which Prime Minister Trudeau had not only with the Italian Government but also with His Holiness the Pope during his recent visit to Rome.

Indeed, the Prime Minister's visit helped to emphasize just how wide-ranging are Canadian and Italian interests. The topics for discussion were diverse including the dangers of nuclear proliferation, the problems of world food and of development of the third world. The latter problems are of special concern to both the Italian Government and the Vatican. This concern was earlier reflected, for example, in the holding of the World Food Conference in Rome last November which my colleague, Mr. Whelan, and I both attended.

Our bilateral relations reveal a similar growth of interest. In 1974, two-way trade between Canada and Italy was valued at more than three-quarters of a billion dollars. This represented an increase of forty-six percent over the previous year and an increase of more than ninety percent over the past two years. We fully expect our trade cooperation to continue to grow. We also hope that it can be supplemented and reinforced by more extensive industrial cooperation.