

FRANCE-CANADA CULTURAL MEET

The France-Canada Mixed Cultural Committee met on June 6 in Ottawa under the chairmanship of Mr. René de Chantal, Director of Cultural Affairs, Department of External Affairs. The French delegation was headed by Mr. Jean Basdevant, Director-General of Cultural Relations in the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The Committee reviewed various aspects of cultural co-operation between the two countries and noted the many exchanges that had developed between France and Canada since the signing of the cultural agreement of November 17, 1965. Included in these were exchanges of scholars already involving about 100 students and researchers on each side as well as scientific exchanges under a programme agreed on by both countries.

Various new projects were examined relating to academic, scientific and artistic exchanges as well as youth exchanges and exchanges of translators. The Committee also considered the development of co-operation between France and Canada in films, radio and television.

"GUIDING PRINCIPLES" SUCCESS

Trade and Commerce Minister Robert Winters has commented on a report he released containing information on the operations and financing of foreign-owned subsidiaries in Canada. This information had been collected as part of a programme initiated in March 1966 to provide guidance to foreign-owned subsidiaries in Canada on the objectives to be aimed at in fulfilling their responsibilities to the Canadian community.

Following the issuance early in 1966 of a list of guide-lines called "Some Guiding Principles of Good Corporate Behaviour", the larger foreign subsidiaries were asked to submit information relating to income, expenditures, earnings and dividend payments, as well as certain financing transactions.

The report is based on information from 266 returns covering the operations of the 820 companies.

SALES UP

The results of the survey show that total merchandise sales of the reporting companies rose from \$13.6 billion in 1964 to \$15.1 billion in 1965. The amount of these sales going for export rose from \$2.5 billion to \$2.7 billion, exports therefore accounting for nearly a fifth of the total sales of reporting companies.

Purchases of merchandise by the reporting companies rose from \$7 billion in 1964 to \$7.9 billion in 1965. About 30 per cent of these purchases came directly from foreign sources, but as in the case of sales, this proportion differs markedly from one industry to another.

DIVIDENDS PAID

The net profits of reporting companies amounted to \$750 million in 1964 and increased to \$787 million in 1965. Dividends paid amounted to \$362 million and

\$399 million in the two years respectively. The proportion of net profits paid out in dividends rose slightly from 48.3 per cent in 1964 to 50.8 per cent in 1965. More than 10 per cent of total dividend payments went to Canadian residents, the remainder being paid abroad after deduction of withholding taxes.

Retained earnings amounted to \$387 million in 1965, almost unchanged from the previous year. Adding depreciation and other allowances brought the total internal general of new funds to \$1,052 million in 1964 and \$1,153 million in 1965.

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

Commenting on the report, Mr. Winters said that the results of the survey suggested an active participation by foreign-owned subsidiaries in the mainstream of national activity. For example, the near 20 per cent proportion of the total sales of these companies moving directly into export channels fell only moderately short of the proportion of total national production going for export. Similarly, the reporting companies showed a moderate surplus on their commodity transactions with the outside world, which was also true of our overall external trade balance position.

In Mr. Winters' view, the good co-operation extended by the subsidiaries in submitting this information reflected a generally receptive attitude to the basic intent of the "Guiding Principles" and indicated a desire, on the part of the companies, to help develop a better understanding of the role and contribution of foreign-owned subsidiaries in the Canadian economy.

ONTARIO RICH IN NICKEL

The International Nickel Company newsletter reported recently that nickel was the largest money-earner during 1966 of all Ontario's minerals, with a value of \$291.2 million. The province's total mineral production during the year was valued at \$964.5 million.

The Canadian five-cent piece has been made of pure nickel since 1922. From that date, more than 450 million nickel "nickels" have been issued in Canada.

COMPUTER SPOTS FREIGHT-CARS

Computers and high-speed telecommunications circuits are providing users of the Canadian Pacific Railway with an instantaneous freight-car tracing service, the first of its kind on a Canadian railway and one of the first in North America.

The new service provides instant answers to questions regarding the location of freight cars by means of which information shippers are able to plan production schedules, inventory lists and sales programmes.