

## PART C

### Chapter 1: INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL RELATIONS

#### Cultural agreements

Canada's cultural relations with Belgium, France, Japan, Mexico, the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy are governed by cultural agreements, and relations with the USSR come under a general scientific, university and cultural co-operation agreement. There are periodic consultations governing cultural exchanges with Britain and the Netherlands, while Canada's cultural links with some countries take the form of specific and timely activities.

Under the agreements, the fourth Canada-Mexico cultural meeting took place in Ottawa on February 4 and 5, while the second set of Japan-Canada cultural consultations was held there on June 8. The seventh session of the Canada-Belgium Joint Commission convened in Quebec City from October 22 to 24, while Ottawa was the site of the tenth session of the Canada-France Joint Commission on December 7, 8 and 9.

#### Consultation with the provinces

Following the consultations with the provinces, in autumn 1980, the first federal-provincial meeting on culture was held in Ottawa in May with a view to improving the consultative processes involved in the Department's international cultural programs; all the provinces and federal departments and agencies responsible for the administration of cultural programs were represented. A federal-provincial meeting is planned for 1982 to review the recommendations that were adopted.

#### Artistic exchanges and cultural promotion

The Department of External Affairs responded to an increasing demand for tours by professional artists abroad in 1981. Despite budgetary constraints, the Department was able to provide assistance to a greater number of projects than in the previous year and to promote Canadian artistic activities on all continents. The fact that the talent of Canadian performers is recognized by audiences of a wide variety of cultures and languages is encouraging. A considerable effort was made to open up new markets and to distribute artistic productions on an exchange basis. The lively activity of our cultural centres and our posts was also instrumental in the progress made in our relations in the field of the performing arts. Both in Canada and abroad, impresarios and artists resorted more to the Department to help them to efficiently co-ordinate their tours.

In the field of dance, the National Ballet of Canada was acclaimed in all the cities of the Federal Republic of Germany and Luxembourg in which it performed. The Eddy-Toussaint Company received favourable comments throughout France and Belgium, while audiences marvelled at dancer Margie