

PRESS RELEASE



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Canada and Romania Establish Diplomatic Relations

The Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs announced today that representatives of the Governments of Canada and of the Socialist Republic of Romania have held a number of meetings in Ottawa between March 7 and April 3, in the course of which they have had a useful discussion of various aspects of bilateral relations between the two countries.

As a result of these discussions, the two countries have agreed through an exchange of identical letters dated April 3rd (Canadian text attached) to establish diplomatic relations, which initially will be at the level of non-resident Ambassadors. The First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, Mr. George Macovescu, led the Romanian delegation. Mr. Martin said it was his firm hope that the establishment of diplomatic relations will facilitate a mutually satisfactory solution to various problems outstanding between Canada and Romania and thereby contribute to better relations between them.

Advantage was taken of the presence of the Romanian delegation to have a preliminary but comprehensive discussion of prospects for increased trade. It was agreed to continue the talks at a date and in a place to be established by mutual agreement. There was also an exchange of views on a range of international problems of interest to both countries.

At the signing ceremony, Mr. Martin made the following remarks:

"Like your Government, the Government of Canada firmly believes that opportunities to lessen the differences and tensions which often separate