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CANADA-FRANCE JOINT COMMISSION, SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

The Canada-France Joint Commission on Scientific Cooperation provided for in the 1973 exchange of letters complementary to the cultural agreement of 1965 held its second meeting in Ottawa on May 4 and 5, 1978. The delegations were led by Mr. Yves Jacques, Head of the Scientific Affairs Office, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Marc Baudouin, Director General, Bureau of European Affairs, Canadian Department of External Affairs. Mr. Philippe Peltier, Counsellor, International Relations Division, General Delegation for Scientific and Technical Research and Mr. James Mullin, General Director, International Division, Canadian Ministry of State for Science and Technology, were among the delegates. In addition to federal government representatives, British Columbia was represented by Mrs. A. Lefebvre-Anglin.

In reviewing scientific exchanges which have taken place under the aegis of the 1965 agreement, particularly in recent years, both delegations recognized that the well-established links between their respective scientific communities continued to expand. The two parties expressed satisfaction with regard to existing agreements as well as to the memorandum of understanding between the French Institut national de la Santé et de la Recherche médicale (INSERM) and the Medical Research Council of Canada, signed at the meeting. The Canadian side outlined recent structural changes in Canadian granting councils, which resulted in the creation of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

The delegations praised the high quality of projects submitted by both sides and noted their compatibility. They recognized a willingness to deepen cooperation in specific sectors such as environment, agriculture, urban affairs, transportation, biomedical research, oceanology, and especially the joint application of research in these sectors. An exchange of views in space policy and remote sensing also took place. Both parties recognized the close inter-relationship between the various facets of Canada-France cooperation among which sciences and technology play an important role.