

painters and film-makers in their successful efforts to establish themselves in the highly competitive European art world. Their professional excellence contributed to the highlighting of Canada as a sophisticated country with much to offer in the field of culture and quality of life.

The Department maintained its active support to the various European associations for Canadian studies, by

providing fellowships, books, learned journals and grants to conferences and other academic activities. An increasing number of European universities have established Centres of Canadian Studies and now offer courses on Canadian history, geography, literature, social sciences, and a variety of other disciplines that contribute to a better knowledge of Canada in Western Europe.

G. THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE

Canada has demonstrated support for political and economic reforms in the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe through creative responses to the changing East-West context and Canada's continuing role within it.

Canada has worked through the coordinating G-24 to alleviate economic frustrations that could threaten reforms in Central and Eastern Europe. Canada developed a program of cooperation comprising \$42 million for Poland and Hungary in October 1989. In addition, \$30 million was contributed to the stabilization fund for Poland.

In response to further changes in the region, Canada established a special Task Force on Hungary and Poland to administer Canada's expanded program of assistance, which comprises a further

\$60 million. The Task Force (which has since become the Task Force on Central and Eastern Europe) offers support to the processes of both democratization and economic change; its assistance is predicated on clear indications of implementation of both political and economic reforms.

Canada is actively encouraging Canadian trade and investment in the U.S.S.R. and Central and Eastern Europe. Measures include joint-venture seminars as well as agreements on the avoidance of double taxation and foreign investment protection agreements signed or being negotiated with the aim of further enhancing bilateral economic activity. General Preferential Tariff status extended to Poland, Hungary and Romania facilitates their