

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, and the Foreign Minister of Belgium, the Honourable Pierre Harnel and Minister of Science Policy and Programming, the Honourable Théo Lefèvre, today signed an agreement providing for scientific, industrial and technological co-operation between the public and private sectors and academic communities of the two countries.

This agreement is the result of a series of contacts which have taken place between the two countries in the scientific sphere, notably the visit to Canada in February 1970 of a Belgian mission led by Mr. Lefèvre and the visit to Brussels in June of the same year of a Canadian delegation under the leadership of Mr. A. G. Kniewasser, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It underlines the desire of the two countries to co-operate fully in all sectors of science and technology, especially with respect to industrial applications. This co-operation is to be undertaken through visits, exchanges, conferences and symposia and joint ventures.

A mixed commission is to be established under the agreement to assist in carrying out programmes undertaken. The mixed commission will meet once a year alternately in Canada and in Belgium.

This agreement is indicative of the increasingly closer relations which are developing between the two countries.