

programme. It was considered that the agreement recently signed by the Association pour l'Organisation des Stages dans l'Industrie française on the one hand and the Province of Quebec and the University of Toronto on the other would be of considerable significance for the training of new engineers. The Foreign Minister of France confirmed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada that the French Government was prepared to welcome Canadian candidates to the Ecole Nationale d'Administration. The agreement of the Canadian Government has been confirmed by an exchange of letters. Finally, the two governments emphasized the interest which they shared in academic exchanges at the advanced level, as well as in exchanges in the field of the performing arts. In this spirit, an agreement concerning the joint production of films was reached last October.

### **Economic Relations**

The two Prime Ministers also exchanged views concerning economic relations between France and Canada; they expressed the desire that commercial exchanges between the two countries be developed to the fullest possible extent. They were agreed that this strengthening of ties could take place in the context of a reduction in trade barriers and the expansion of international trade, the objective of the forthcoming GATT negotiations. They noted with satisfaction that projects of mutual interest in the field of defence production were under study. They also took note of the interest of French business circles in new investment possibilities in Canada.

The Ministers were also in agreement on the importance of accelerating economic growth in the developing countries by assisting them in increasing their trade and by sustained programmes of external aid. The two governments felt that it would be useful to co-ordinate their policies in this respect, in view of the considerable role which France has traditionally played in this field and of recent developments in the Canadian programme of aid to French-speaking countries in Africa.

The President of the French Republic and the Prime Minister of Canada noted with satisfaction the warm cordiality and the spirit of mutual understanding which characterized their discussions. There is no doubt that the unanimity of views which has been evident on this occasion opens the most favourable prospect for the development of Franco-Canadian relations for their mutual benefit and for that of the Western world as a whole.