

Visit of the Governor General to Romania, May 10 - 14, 1982

The Governor General, at the longstanding invitation of President Ceausescu of Romania, will visit Romania from May 10 to 14. As Head of State, the Governor General will attend and participate in various state functions. Accompanying the Governor General and Mrs. Schreyer on this visit and acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, will be the Honourable James Fleming, Minister of State for Multiculturalism, and Mrs. Fleming. Mr. Fleming will conduct discussions with Romanian ministers.

Canada and the Socialist Republic of Romania established diplomatic relations in 1967 and Canada's Ambassador to Yugoslavia was accredited to Romania in January 1968. The first Romanian Ambassador to Canada took up residence in Ottawa in 1970. Canada opened an embassy in Bucharest and appointed its first resident Ambassador in 1976.

Canada's relations with Romania have developed rapidly since 1967. The visit to Romania of the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, then Secretary of State for External Affairs, in 1970, and the visit to Canada of Mr. Manescu, then Romanian Foreign Minister, in 1971, set the stage for negotiations on subjects of mutual interest including nuclear co-operation. In July 1975, Prime Minister Trudeau held bilateral talks with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu while both leaders were attending the concluding session of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in Helsinki.

The imminent visit of the Governor General continues the pattern of high level visits, and will serve as a demonstration of the relations which have evolved between Canada and Romania, as well as the hope for their continued development.

Of significance in Canadian/Romanian bilateral relations is nuclear co-operation. As a result of an agreement concluded in 1979, Romania has purchased Canadian technology and the construction of a nuclear power station of the CANDU type is at present underway in the Danube Valley. The visit will include an inspection of the site. The nuclear aspect of the relationship, as well as other matters of mutual interest, will be addressed by Mr. Fleming in his discussions with Romanian ministers.

April 15, 1982