

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

Increasingly, scientific and technological cooperation between France and Canada is characterized by similar national policies proposing technological development as the object of bilateral cooperation.

The France-Canada Joint Scientific Commission, which met in Vancouver in May 1986, underscored the importance of scientific and technological research in economic development. Priority and prospective areas were identified for cooperation. These included biotechnology, space technology and oceanography on the one hand, and information technology, Arctic technologies and new materials on the other. The Science and Technology Cooperation Program, for which the Commission is responsible, has been adjusted to accommodate exchanges of researchers and exploratory missions for the purpose of technological development.

Research and development cooperation and technology transfers (patents, licences and expertise) between French and Canadian companies were the subject of an economic and industrial cooperation agreement between governments, concluded in January 1987. This agreement will involve a number of departments and agencies in the task of forming closer ties between companies, including, on the Canadian side, the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion and the National Research Council.

The Technology Inflow Program of the Department of External Affairs was created in 1985 to meet the need for financial assistance among Canadian companies wishing to explore the possibility of transferring French technology to Canada. This year, a technological development officer position was created at the Canadian Embassy in Paris, to more efficiently meet Canadian requests for French technology.

Last November, a group of about 10 Canadian business leaders accompanied Regional Industrial Expansion Minister Côté to France to explore the possibilities of research and technological development cooperation with French companies in the context of the European EUREKA program. The Canadian mis-

sion received a warm welcome from the French government and business leaders. In the context of EUREKA, a \$3.5 million subsidy has been given by the Canadian government to Calmos Systems of Kanata, Ontario, a company specializing in micro-electronics technology, to help it reach an agreement with the Pan-European consortium ES-2, of which the Bull company of France is part.

Space continues to be a priority sector for technological cooperation between France and Canada. For example, Anik-E1 and E2, the next two Canadian communication satellites, will be launched in 1990 by French Ariane-4 launching vehicles, in accordance with the agreement of April 1987 between Telesat Canada and Arianespace. Canada is also participating in preliminary studies for the Hermes space shuttle, initiated by France and now being continued by the European Space Agency.