

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, announced today that, in the framework of the Cultural Agreement concluded between the two countries in 1967, the Canada/Belgium Mixed Commission will meet in Quebec City, December 8 and 9, 1975.

Following discussions between federal government authorities and those of the government of Quebec, it has been agreed with the concurrence of the Belgian government that the Mixed Commission will adopt at its first meeting the attached resolution, creating a Belgium/Quebec Sub-Commission with a view to permitting the Government of Quebec to participate fully in the implementation of the Agreement.

The convening of the Commission and the creation of the Belgium/Quebec Sub-Commission will encourage the growth and diversification of the links which traditionally unite Canada and Belgium in the cultural sphere.

Cultural exchanges have increased considerably since the conclusion of the Canada/Belgium Agreement in 1967, and have involved the academic (scholarships, exchanges of university professors), and artistic (exhibitions by Belgian and Canadian artists) sectors as well as the performing arts (tours by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Jeunes comédiens du Théâtre du Nouveau monde and by the National Theatre of Belgium). To complete the picture, mention must be made of the opening in 1974 of the Canadian Cultural and Information Centre in Brussels, youth exchange programmes and gifts of books, and the existence of a Belgian/Canadian literary prize.

A further announcement will be forthcoming soon of the names of the Canadian members of the Mixed Commission.