

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced that an Agreement on the Co-production of films with Italy was signed today in Ottawa by the Ambassador for Italy, His Excellency Mr. Alessandro Farace, and himself. Secretary of State Gérard Pelletier, who participated in the negotiation of this Agreement, was also present at the ceremony.

The aim of the Agreement between Canada and Italy is to promote the co-production of films with a high artistic and technical value, and thereby not only encourage the growth of the film-making industry in Italy and Canada but also improve its economic health. The Agreement contains a preamble and 19 articles defining the terms of its execution and the conditions that must be met before films produced jointly with Italy can qualify for the advantages offered by the Agreement.

In Canada, co-productions will be approved by the Secretary of State, through an agency designated by him, after consultation with all parties concerned.

The Agreement provides for the setting up of a joint commission which will meet each year, alternating between the two countries, to examine the application of the provisions and to study the program of activities to be undertaken under the Agreement. Its other duties will include proposing possible amendments to the Agreement, solving problems of interpretation and redefining the conditions for renewal.

In announcing the signing of the Agreement, Mr. Sharp expressed satisfaction with this new step in the development of our cultural relations with Italy. He said that the vitality and growth of our film-making industry is certain to benefit from this Co-production Agreement and other similar accords now being negotiated.