

Canada in March, on a study mission, an important parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. On the occasion of the funeral of Premier Johnson in September, the French Prime Minister, Mr. Couve de Murville, held talks in Quebec with Prime Minister Trudeau. In December, a delegation of nine Canadian Parliamentarians, led by Mr. Ovide Laflamme, visited Paris for a highly successful meeting of the France-Canada Parliamentary Association.

Extensive cultural exchanges were pursued by the Canadian and French Governments, in accordance with the France-Canada cultural agreement of 1965. Co-operation between France and the Canadian provinces, particularly Quebec, also developed under this agreement.

In the sphere of nuclear energy, France and Canada concluded on September 30 an agreement by which Atomic Energy of Canada Limited sold to the French Commissariat for Atomic Energy \$1.5-million worth of Canadian plutonium, under provisions for inspection and peaceful use. This was followed on October 15 by an important five-year agreement between the two organizations concerning the exchange of information in the field of research and development relating to heavy-water-moderated nuclear power reactors. In the space field, where France-Canada exchanges were already taking place, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Sharp, conveyed to Mr. Debré, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, on October 4 proposals for extensive co-operation. The France-Canada joint committee on defence research, development and production also met in October in Ottawa to take stock and study plans for the future.

Co-operation with the Federal Republic of Germany continued to occupy a significant place in Canada's external relations, both bilateral and multilateral. During the year the German Minister of Defence and a parliamentary delegation headed by the Bundestag President visited Canada, while the Canadian Minister of National Defence and the Minister of Finance visited the Federal Republic. Joint efforts in scientific and meteorological testing were continued and expanded at the Churchill Research Range, and a Canadian scientific delegation visited the Federal Republic in October. The Federal Republic assumed increasing importance as a source of capital both for private and for governmental borrowers in Canada.

In line with the friendly links it had long enjoyed with the Benelux and Scandinavian states, as well as with Switzerland and Austria, Canada pursued a close dialogue with these countries in 1968. The visit to Ottawa in October of the Belgian Foreign Minister, Mr. Pierre Harmel, which reflected the close political, cultural and human affinities between Belgium and Canada, enabled the Secretary of State for External Affairs and his Belgian colleague to review new possibilities for co-operation in several fields, including that of science and technology.

Relations with the Mediterranean countries of Western Europe also received attention. Italy, with which Canada has broad contacts both within NATO and bilaterally, received particular manifestations of sympathy from Canada through private and governmental donations following the disastrous earthquakes in Sicily. In the summer, an official visit to Turkey by the Canadian Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce underlined Canada's interest in that country and its developing economy.