

PRESS RELEASE



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Canada and Romania Establish Diplomatic Relations

The Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs announced today that representatives of the Governments of Canada and of the Socialist Republic of Romania have held a number of meetings in Ottawa between March 7 and April 3, in the course of which they have had a useful discussion of various aspects of bilateral relations between the two countries.

As a result of these discussions, the two countries have agreed through an exchange of identical letters dated April 3rd (Canadian text attached) to establish diplomatic relations, which initially will be at the level of non-resident Ambassadors. The First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, Mr. George Macovescu, led the Romanian delegation. Mr. Martin said it was his firm hope that the establishment of diplomatic relations will facilitate a mutually satisfactory solution to various problems outstanding between Canada and Romania and thereby contribute to better relations between them.

Advantage was taken of the presence of the Romanian delegation to have a preliminary but comprehensive discussion of prospects for increased trade. It was agreed to continue the talks at a date and in a place to be established by mutual agreement. There was also an exchange of views on a range of international problems of interest to both countries.

At the signing ceremony, Mr. Martin made the following remarks:

"Like your Government, the Government of Canada firmly believes that opportunities to lessen the differences and tensions which often separate

countries of different social systems are open to those who are willing to sit down together to discuss ways of achieving practical and mutually advantageous solutions to existing problems. This mutual desire on the part of our respective governments has borne fruit in the agreement we have signed today, and I am sure that today's agreement will be only the first of many steps in the further development of closer relations between our two countries.

"I would also hope that the spirit of goodwill which has brought about today's agreement could be duplicated more often in the international sphere where so many problems remain unresolved. In this respect, I firmly believe that countries such as ours have a positive contribution to make in the achievement of world peace and it behooves us to take up the challenge and exert every possible effort to achieve that goal."

Following is the text of the letter signed

by Mr. Martin April 3, 1967 in Ottawa

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the recent discussions which have taken place in Ottawa between representatives of the Government of Canada and representatives of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania concerning the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries.

In those discussions, in which expression was given to the desire of the two governments to develop relations between Canada and Romania, understanding was reached on the following:

1. diplomatic relations would be established between Canada and the Socialist Republic of Romania as of this date;

2. both parties would establish diplomatic missions at the Embassy level, and would have no objection to such missions being non-resident or headed by non-resident Ambassadors.

I have the honour to confirm that this understanding is entirely acceptable to the Government of Canada.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed)
Paul Martin,
Secretary of State for
External Affairs of Canada

His Excellency George Macovescu,
First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Head of the Delegation of the Socialist
Republic of Romania,
Ottawa.