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Visit by Prime Minister Alain
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Visit by Prime Minister Alain Juppé

June 9 to 11, 1996

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CORRECTED VERSION

PRIME MINISTER OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC TO VISIT CANADA

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announced today that Mr. Alain Juppé, Prime Minister of the French Republic, will visit Canada from June 9 to 11. Mr. Juppé will be accompanied by a ministerial and parliamentary delegation, along with a group of business leaders.

"Our relations with France are productive and friendly. This visit will enable us to strengthen our transatlantic partnership and to extend our economic ties, which are of unprecedented dynamism and quality," said Mr. Chrétien.

In Ottawa, June 9-10, Prime Minister Juppé will meet with Governor General Roméo LeBlanc and with Prime Minister Chrétien. They will discuss various bilateral issues, including trade and investment expansion, and international issues of common interest such as the Francophonie, the G7 and the situation in the former Yugoslavia. Prime Minister Juppé will also be awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Ottawa.

On June 10-11, Prime Minister Juppé will be in Quebec, where he will meet with Premier Lucien Bouchard.

The French ministerial delegation accompanying Prime Minister Juppé will consist of Mr. Franck Borotra, the Minister of Industry, Postage and Communications; Mr. Guy Drut, Minister-Delegate for Youth and Sports; and Mrs. Margie Sudre, Secretary of State to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in charge of the Francophonie.

**FRANCE-CANADA RELATIONS**

Relations between France and Canada are productive and friendly. The two countries maintain ongoing contacts through the numerous visits made by their leaders in a bilateral or multilateral framework. For example, in June 1995, President Jacques Chirac participated in the G-7 Summit in Halifax and took the opportunity to hold bilateral meetings with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. The two leaders met again in Cotonou at the Francophone Summit in December 1995. They both took part in the Peacemakers' Summit in Charm el-Cheikh (Egypt), and, more recently, in the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security in Moscow. They will meet again at the G-7 Summit in Lyon. In January, Governor General Roméo LeBlanc represented Canada in Paris at the funeral of former French President François Mitterrand. Shortly after his appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lloyd Axworthy met with his French counterpart, Hervé de Charette, on a visit to Paris. In addition, numerous visits are made by ministers and senior officials from both countries.

France and Canada co-operate closely within many international bodies such as the United Nations, the G-7, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and la Francophonie. Canada and France have established an ongoing dialogue on a number of subjects of mutual interest, including peacekeeping forces in Haiti and Bosnia, strengthening transatlantic ties, and disarmament.

Following the delimitation of the sea frontiers between Canada and France off Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, a fisheries agreement was signed in Paris by prime ministers Jean Chrétien and Édouard Balladur. Fisheries officials in both countries are working together productively to implement the agreement. An agreement promoting regional co-operation between Atlantic Canada and Saint-Pierre and Miquelon was also concluded in 1994, and the joint commission established by that agreement, which is made up of representatives of the different levels of government and of the private sector, met in May 1996.

Cultural co-operation between France and Canada is planned at the governmental level in the framework of the cultural agreement of 1965 and of numerous exchange programs. Some 15 centres for Canadian studies help substantially to raise Canada's profile in France. Moreover, the two countries have established a special partnership in the audiovisual field, by signing co-production agreements and co-operating in connection with the TV-5 channel and the multimedia field. The renovation of the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris will help to make the city a focal point for Canadian culture in France and the rest of Europe. The Canada-France Joint Commission on Scientific Interchanges held a meeting in May 1996 to boost relations in this state-of-the-art field.

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Trade, investment and technology

- Over the past 10 years, France has persisted to become firmly entrenched as Canada's sixth-largest economic partner after the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, Germany and China. Indeed, the current strength and quality of bilateral economic relations are unprecedented. They are characterized not only by increased trade in goods and a spectacular tourism boom, but also by a strong upswing in science and technology exchanges, strategic partnerships and investment, which constitute the most remarkable phenomenon. The primary sector, though still important, no longer dominates trade, giving way to the secondary and tertiary sectors. France is now one of Canada's key economic partners, and that situation should continue to evolve favourably in the coming years.
- Bilateral trade was very strong in 1995. According to Statistics Canada, Canadian exports to France increased in value by 41 per cent over 1994, while French exports to Canada were up by 24 per cent. Bilateral trade totalled \$5 billion for 1995 as a whole, up from \$3.9 billion the year before.
- The French market is offering more and more opportunities for Canadian high value-added finished products, especially in the advanced technology sector. More than a third of Canada's exports are in sectors such as aeronautics, transport, electrical and mechanical equipment, and precision instruments. There is also strong growth in other sectors, including telecommunications, environmental products, and biotechnology. In the agri-food sector, new opportunities are opening up for oilseeds, processed food products and seafood.
- France-Canada economic relations cannot, however, be defined only in terms of trade in goods. Trade in services is not only experiencing unprecedented growth, but it is now valued at over \$1.6 billion, more than 30 per cent of trade in goods. Trade in services consists mainly of transport and freight services, business services and tourism. Tourism alone brings nearly a million visitors a year, generating some \$1 billion in revenues, distributed almost evenly between the two countries. The 435 000 French tourists who visited Canada in 1995 spent approximately \$450 million and sustained 14 000 jobs, mainly in small and medium-sized businesses.
- Direct investment, strategic partnership, technology exchanges and sectoral co-operation are all stronger and show future promise.
- Canada has become well established in France through the above initiatives. Between 1985 and 1995, Canadian investment in France increased tenfold, reaching \$1.9 billion. France is now the ninth most popular destination for Canadian investment abroad, attracting 1.6 per cent of total investment and more than a hundred Canadian companies. Those companies include Northern Telecom, Alcan, Bata, Cascades, Quebecor, Tembec, McCain Foods, Newbridge, and Seagram.

- French investment in Canada increased 3.5 times during the same period, and France is now the fifth largest foreign investor in Canada, with a \$5.3 billion portfolio representing 3 per cent of foreign investment and over 340 companies. That investment is spread throughout the country, generating 40 000 jobs, of which 23 000 are in manufacturing. The French presence in Canada is concentrated in the following sectors: electronics (GEC-Alsthom, Jeumont-Schneider), information technologies (Thomson-CSF, Alcatel, Bull), aerospace (Aérospatiale), pharmaceutical products (Rhône-Polenc, Institut Mérieux), mining (Cogema, BRGM), semi-finished products (Pechiney, Lafarge, AirLiquide), banking (BNP, Société Générale, Crédit Lyonnais), and insurance (AGF, GAN, Axa, Mutuelles du Mans).
- Although it is difficult to quantify, there is a solid, albeit recent, tradition of strategic partnerships and technology exchanges between France and Canada, especially in the high technology field, which have generated substantial investment. The first such example was the Montreal subway project, which brought Canada technology transfer from France that was so successful that it spawned a local industry which quickly gained international stature. Other valuable experiences have followed, notably co-operation projects in the air and rail transport sector, and an expanded partnership is developing in cutting-edge sectors (biotechnology, space, computers), communication industries (information highway) and the agri-food sector.
- Canada and France enjoy a profitable and productive relationship with respect to science and technology. Canada has signed 23 co-operation agreements with France, which is the fourth largest R&D investor in the world. Following the recent signing of the Agreement for Scientific Co-operation between Canada and the European Union, co-operation with France is becoming vitally important in the European context. France is thus becoming one of Canada's favoured partners, giving our researchers access to European projects.
- France and Canada, which are both major global exporters, are aware of how important their respective regional integration areas — namely, the European Union and NAFTA — are becoming to their trade. Far from being a handicap, this phenomenon is an asset on which to build, with businesses in each country giving one another access to and knowledge of their respective regional markets.
- Economic globalization and global trade have given rise to a new phenomenon. Bilateral economic relations were long limited to trade in goods, with investment following, rather than preceding, that trade. Today, with the gradual liberalization of the global economy, it is investment, strategic partnerships and technology transfer that are starting to fuel economic relations among industrialized countries belonging to regional economic entities. The recent evolution of France-Canada economic relations is an excellent illustration of that phenomenon.



Jean Chrétien
Prime Minister of Canada

Born in Shawinigan, Quebec, on Jan. 11, 1934, Jean Chrétien studied law at Laval University and was called to the bar in 1958. He joined a Shawinigan law firm, and was director of the Bar of Trois-Rivières in 1962-63.

Mr. Chrétien was first elected to the House of Commons in 1963. After being re-elected in 1965, he was appointed parliamentary secretary to Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson and, in 1966, parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Finance. In 1967 he became Minister of State attached to the Minister of Finance, and in 1968 he was appointed Minister of National Revenue.

Re-elected five times between 1968 and 1980, Mr. Chrétien held a number of cabinet portfolios during that period, among them Indian Affairs and Northern Development; Industry, Trade and Commerce; Finance; Justice; and Energy, Mines and Resources. He was President of the Treasury Board from 1974 until 1976; and he was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs in June 1984.

Following the election of September 1984, the Liberals formed the official Opposition and Mr. Chrétien served as critic for external affairs. In 1986 he left politics and, from 1986 to 1990, he was a counsel with the law firm of Lang Michener Lawrence and Shaw. He was also a senior advisor with Gordon Capital Corporation.

Four years later, Mr. Chrétien returned to politics. On June 23, 1990, he was elected Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada. He was elected to the House of Commons in a byelection and sworn in as Leader of the Opposition in December 1990.

Mr. Chrétien was re-elected to the House of Commons for the riding of Saint-Maurice on Oct. 25, 1993, when his party won a majority of seats in the House. He became the 20th Prime Minister of Canada on Nov. 4, 1993.

Mr. Chrétien married Aline Chaîné of Shawinigan in 1957. They have three children.

Mr. Alain Juppé
Prime Minister of the French Republic

Alain Juppé was born in Mont-de-Marsan in the Landes in 1945. He graduated from the Institut d'études politiques de Paris with a fellowship in classical studies, and is an alumnus of the École normale supérieure and the École nationale d'administration. He worked in the Treasury before entering the office of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac in 1976. He worked in the office of the Minister of Co-operation between 1976 and 1978 and became a national delegate of the Rassemblement pour la République (RPR). He later joined Mr. Chirac's staff after the latter became Mayor of Paris.

Mr. Juppé was elected to the Paris city council in 1983, (second assistant responsible for the budget) and entered the European Parliament in 1984. In 1986, he was elected Member of the National Assembly for Paris and, under Edouard Balladur, became the minister responsible for the budget and the Government's spokesperson. He was re-elected to the National Assembly in 1988 and became a member of the RPR's general secretariat. He was confirmed as Secretary General at the RPR's party conference in March 1993, and was reelected as a member of the National Assembly on March 28.

Mr. Juppé was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in March 1993 in the Cabinet of Édouard Balladur. He was appointed Prime Minister by President Chirac in May 1995. In June 1995, he was elected mayor of the city of Bordeaux.

FRANCE

Capital: Paris

GEODATA

Area
550 000 km²

Population
58 million (1995)

Population growth
0.5% (1995)

POLITICAL DATA

Type of government
Republic, parliamentary democracy, two chambers

President, Jacques Chirac (RPR)

Prime Minister, Alain Juppé (RPR)

Foreign Affairs Minister, Hervé de Charette (UDF)

Industry, Post and Telecommunications Minister
Franck Borotra (RPR)

Finance and Foreign Trade Minister-delegate
Yves Galland (UDF)

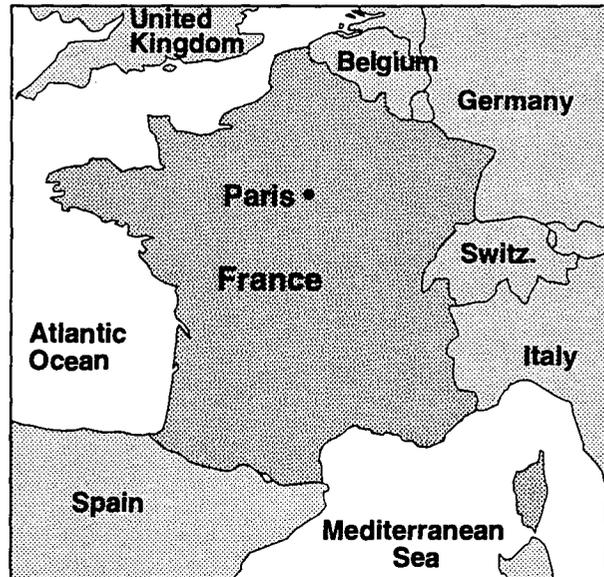
Democratic institutions
Bicameral parliament (Senate, National Assembly)

UN Human Development Index
France ranks 8th among 174 countries

CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE

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ECONOMIC DATA

GDP US\$1.16 trillion (1995)

GDP growth rate 2.4% (1995)

GDP per capita US\$27 119 (1995)

Inflation rate 1.8% (1995)

Unemployment rate 11.6% (1995)

National public debt 32% of GDP

Public sector deficit 5.7% of GDP

Major exports

Machinery and equipment, semi-finished goods, consumer products, vehicles and agri-food products

Major imports

Machinery and equipment, semi-finished goods, consumer products, vehicles, agri-food products and energy products

FACT SHEET: CANADA-FRANCE TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MERCHANDISE TRADE (1995)

Canadian Exports to France
Total: \$1.9 billion

Main items: wood pulp(\$355m), aircrafts and parts(\$314m), machinery(\$311), chemicals(\$86m), copper(\$65m), metal ores(\$65m), paper (\$64m), wood products \$63m), fish and seafood (\$62m), technical apparatus (\$41m)

Canadian imports from France
Total: 1985: \$3.1 billion

Main items: aircrafts (\$444m), electrical machinery(\$416m), machinery(\$348m), beverages(\$274m), metals(\$169m), organic chemicals(\$151m), printed matter(\$123m), cosmetics(\$103m), apparatus(\$93m), vehicles(\$92m)

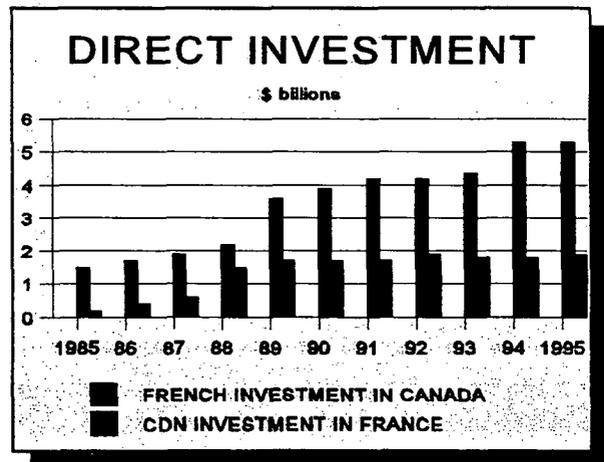
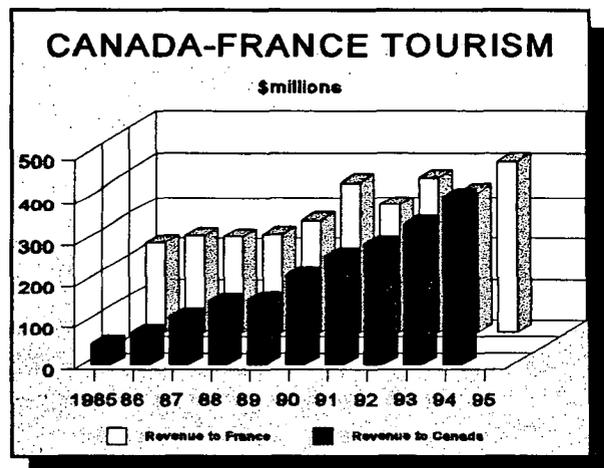
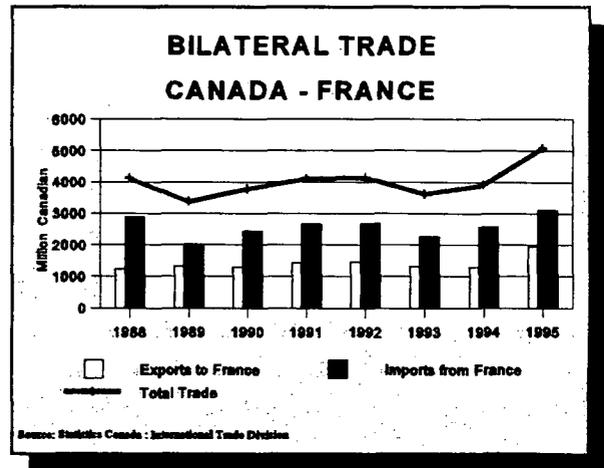
DIRECT INVESTMENT

Canadian direct investment in France
1985: \$0.2 billion 1995: \$1.9 billion

Main sectors: telecommunications, transportation equipment, agri-food, trade.

French direct investment in Canada
1985: \$1.5 billion 1995: \$5.3 billion

Main sectors: manufacturing, trade, services, natural resources



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