



communiqué

No:
No.: 38

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: MARCH 18, 1982

FOURTH MEETING OF THE FRANCE-CANADA JOINT COMMISSION ON SCIENTIFIC CO-OPERATION, MARCH 17-18, 1982

The France-Canada Joint Commission on Scientific Co-operation, which was brought into being by the 1973 exchange of letters supplementing the Cultural Agreement of 1965, held its fourth meeting in Ottawa on March 17 and 18, 1982. The delegations were led by Mr. Jacques Thibau, Director General of Cultural, Scientific and Technical Relations with the French Ministry of Foreign Relations, and Mr. Jacques Gignac, Assistant Deputy Minister, Multilateral and Cultural Affairs, Department of External Affairs. Dr. Bernard Gingras, Vice-President of External Relations of the National Research Council of Canada, acted as co-chairman, while Mr. Jean-Claude Mourlon represented the French Ministry of Research and Technology. In addition to the federal government representatives, Alberta was represented by Mr. Chris Watts, Saskatchewan by Dr. A.J. Guy and Ontario by Ms. Robin L. Taylor.

In reviewing the scientific exchanges that have taken place under the 1965 agreement, both delegations recognized that close ties had been formed between their scientific communities especially in the fields of astronomy, agriculture, renewable energy sources and medical research. They also expressed their satisfaction with the agreements and other arrangements concluded between research agencies (e.g., the Canada Research Council and the French Centre national de la recherche scientifique; the Medical Research Council and the French Institut National de la santé et de la Recherche médicale).

Joint projects, exchanges of personnel, missions and seminars are foreseen in about fifteen fields. Having noted the degree of maturity attained in scientific relations between the two countries, the two delegations agreed that the following sectors most capable of generating large-scale projects with medium- and long-term economic benefits, should be given

particular attention: space (remote sensing), energy (in particular energy conservation), oceanology (robotics for underwater devices), biotechnology and scientific information. The two delegations also reviewed the means for giving this co-operation a new impetus in accordance with the strengthening of privileged relations between the two countries.