



CANADA

**C
o
m
m
u
n
i
q
u
é**

No. 83

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 12, 1973

VISIT OF MR. SCHEEL TO OTTAWA

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today that the Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Walter Scheel, will pay an official visit to Canada from September 27 to September 30. This visit is in the context of continuing consultations at both the official and governmental levels between Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany and is in return for the visit which Mr. Sharp paid to the Federal Republic in April 1970.

The last official visit to Canada of a Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, in April 1969, was that of Mr. Scheel's predecessor in office, Mr. Willy Brandt, the present Chancellor.

During his visit, Mr. Scheel will hold discussions in Ottawa with the Prime Minister and other members of the Cabinet including Mr. Sharp, who will be his host during the visit. He will also address a meeting of the Empire Club in Toronto.

After the completion of talks in Ottawa, Mr. Scheel, who will be accompanied by his wife, will spend the week-end in the Laurentians prior to leaving Canada.

-- (A short biography of Mr. Scheel is attached.)

W A L T E R S C H E E L

Vice Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Federal Republic of Germany

Mr. Walter Scheel was born in Solingen on July 8, 1919. He graduated from high school in 1938 and trained in the banking field, before being drafted for military service in World War II until 1945.

After the war, Mr. Scheel became a partner in two market-research firms and headed a number of business associations, while at the same time actively pursuing his political interests.

A member of the Free Democratic Party (FDP) since 1946, he has served as a legislator at every level of government. He was elected to the Duesseldorf City Council in 1948, entered the State Parliament of North Rhine Westphalia in 1950, and became a member of the Bundestag in 1953. Mr. Scheel also served in the European Parliament since 1955, where he was named Chairman of its Committee for Cooperation with Developing Countries in 1958.

In 1961, Mr. Scheel was appointed Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation in a Coalition Government formed by the CDU/CSU (Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union) and the FDP. He served in this post until 1966, when his party went into the Opposition.

Mr. Scheel was elected National Chairman of the FDP in 1968 and led his party as Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister into the present Coalition Government with the SPD (Social Democratic Party) following the 1969 Federal elections. Mr. Scheel was reappointed Foreign Minister and Vice Chancellor after the coalition's victory in parliamentary elections on November 19, 1972.

Mr. Scheel is married to the former Mildred Wirtz. They have four children.