

European Community



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PRESS RELEASE

EC/CANADA TALKS HELD IN BRUSSELS

A series of meetings between senior officials from the Commission and the Canadian Government took place in Brussels on 28 to 30 March 1979. The Commission Delegation was led by Mr. J. Loeff, Deputy Director-General for External Relations, while the Canadian Delegation was led by Mr. D. S. McPhail, Assistant Under-Secretary at the Department of External Affairs. In addition, the Canadian Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr. G. Lussier, held talks with senior Commission officials concerning agricultural issues of mutual interest.

On 28 and 29 March the two sides held their regular semi-annual consultations in the course of which they discussed the international economic situation, current multilateral trade issues and certain bilateral trade problems. Separate consultations were also held under article XIX of GATT concerning Canada's import restrictions on footwear.

On 29 and 30 March meetings took place of the two sub-committees of the Joint Cooperation Committee set up in 1976 under the EC/Canada Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation. The Canadian Delegation included representatives of a number of provincial governments.

The General and Preparatory Sub-Committee, which was co-chaired by Mr. Loeff and Mr. McPhail, reviewed the state of cooperation in the fields of science and technology and the protection of the environment. The sub-committee also had preliminary exchanges of views concerning the 1980/81 work programme of cooperation and the preparation of the next meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee, which is scheduled to take place in Brussels at the end of 1979.

The Industrial Sub-Committee, which was co-chaired by Mr. Loeff and Mr. A. Guerin, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, heard progress reports on the activities of the different working groups on forest products (timber frame construction, pulp and paper), telecommunications and data-processing, aeronautics, uranium and nuclear industries, as well as minerals and metals, including in particular asbestos and steel research and development. Finally, it discussed cooperation in the field of energy savings in industry.

NR (79) 14
30 March