

Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (environmental policy). The adjunct bodies of NATO, such as the North Atlantic Assembly and the Atlantic Treaty Association, also contribute to the usefulness of the Alliance as a forum for exchanging views.

Membership in NATO aids the development of Canada's political, economic and scientific/technological relations with Europe, which balance those with the United States. The Alliance allows and obliges both Canada and the United States to take an active role in European affairs and exemplifies the interdependence of Europe and the North American continent.

### **3.6.2.7 Canada and the United States**

There is no more important external relationship for Canada than that with the United States. As a result of geography and economic and social patterns, the two countries must frequently meet to discuss various aspects of their respective governmental policies and programs. In addition to informal consultations, there are also several official and technical committees in which Canadian and US officials discuss bilateral matters ranging from economic questions to defence to transboundary environmental matters. For example, the International Joint Commission, an independent agency, was jointly established by the US and Canada to deal with regulation of flows of boundary waters and the abatement of transboundary air and water pollution. Canada and the US have a long history of defence co-operation through the Permanent Joint Board on Defence and through NATO.

In addition to bilateral matters, Canada and the US work together on international questions in a variety of multilateral organizations such as the UN, the OECD, GATT, the IMF and others in which both countries are active members.

Canada and the United States are each other's best customer, and in 1974 two-way trade between the two countries was approximately \$40 billion. Canada sells to the United States about 65% of all exports and buys from the US about 20% of all US exports.

Demographic and economic patterns make for a somewhat asymmetric relationship between Canada and the US that poses a challenge for Canada. In pursuit of Canadian goals, however, it is fundamental to Canadian foreign policy that Canada continue to maintain sound and mutually beneficial relations with the US.

### **3.6.2.8 Canada and the Commonwealth Caribbean**

Canada has long enjoyed close relations with the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. The current phase of relations began with the Commonwealth Caribbean-Canada Conference of 1966, followed by a special Canadian Mission to the area in 1970. In April 1975 the Prime Minister visited Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and Guyana, then went to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kingston, Jamaica.

By the end of 1974 Canadian investment in the region was estimated at over \$600 million. In the same year, Canadian imports from the region totalled \$89.8 million while exports were valued at \$137.0 million. Canadian bilateral development assistance to the Caribbean began in 1958 and has averaged approximately \$20.0 million a year in loans and grants in recent years. It has been concentrated in the sectors of education, air transport, water supply and agriculture. Funds have also been made available on a multilateral basis through various organizations including the United Nations and the Caribbean Development Bank.

More than 3,000 Canadians are permanent residents in the region and over 200,000 visit the islands annually. During 1974, 22,926 West Indians immigrated to Canada. There are Canadian High Commissions in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and Barbados, and these four countries and Grenada maintain High Commissions in Ottawa. There is also a Commissioner for the Eastern Caribbean in Montreal who represents the five West Indies Associated States (Antigua, Dominica, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent) and Montserrat.

### **3.6.2.9 Canada and Latin America**

Canada maintains diplomatic, consular, cultural and trade relations with all the Latin American countries through 13 resident missions and dual or multiple accreditation from those missions. Canada is associated with the Inter-American System through a Permanent Observer Mission to the Organization of American States and membership in its main developmental agencies and other bodies.