

bilateral and multilateral agreements, and assistance to developing countries. In matters of aid, the federal government encourages a detailed federal-provincial consultation to ensure that specific projects are co-ordinated. The promotional activities of the provinces coupled with their increased interests in international activities have led to a greatly increased number of provincial visits abroad. The federal government assists provincial officials by making arrangements and appropriate appointments for their visits abroad and in co-ordinating visits of foreign personalities to provincial capitals.

**Treaty-making powers.** The federal government has exclusive responsibility for external affairs. It promotes the interest of the entire country within the overall framework of a national policy.

In matters of specific concern to the provinces, it is the policy of the Canadian government to do its utmost to assist the provinces in achieving their particular aspirations and goals. The attitude of the federal government is reflected in the frequent consultations between federal and provincial levels of government regarding treaties bearing on areas of provincial interest and responsibility. A variety of methods have been developed which can allow for full expression of provincial interests in treaty-making.

Once it has been determined that what a province seeks through agreements, in fields of provincial jurisdiction, falls within the framework of Canadian foreign policy, provision is made for direct provincial participation in negotiating with the authorities of the foreign country. When these arrangements are to be incorporated in an international agreement having legal effect, however, this can be achieved only through the federal power to conclude treaties.

### 3.6.2 International activities

#### 3.6.2.1 Canada and the Commonwealth

The present-day Commonwealth has evolved into an international association of 36 sovereign states embracing approximately one-quarter of the earth's surface and one billion of its people, who are diverse in race, colour, creed and language. Comprising both developed and developing countries, the Commonwealth represents a unique association whose members share many of the same traditions, political and social values, attitudes and institutions. All members collectively subscribe to certain common ideals known as the Declaration of Commonwealth Principles. Commonwealth membership, however, is not an alternative, but a complement to other forms of international co-operation — its members believe in and work for the success of the United Nations and together belong to a wide range of international organizations.

Commonwealth members (with the year when membership was proclaimed in parentheses if post-1931) are as follows: Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand, the Bahamas (1973), Bangladesh (1972), Barbados (1966), Botswana (1966), Cyprus (1961), Fiji (1970), Gambia (1965), Ghana (1957), Grenada (1974), Guyana (1966), India (1947), Jamaica (1962), Kenya (1963), Lesotho (1966), Malawi (1964), Malaysia (1963), Malta (1964), Mauritius (1968), Nauru (Special Member), Nigeria (1960), Papua New Guinea (1975), Seychelles (1976), Sierra Leone (1961), Singapore (1965), Sri Lanka (Ceylon) (1948), Swaziland (1968), Tanzania (1964), Tonga (1970), Trinidad and Tobago (1962), Uganda (1962), Western Samoa (1970) and Zambia (1964). Nauru has special membership in the Commonwealth with all the advantages of membership except attendance at heads of government meetings. Through their association with Britain, which has retained responsibility for foreign affairs and defence, the five West Indies Associated States of Antigua, Dominica, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent are also associated with the Commonwealth, as are the British dependencies and the external territories of Australia and New Zealand in the Caribbean, the Atlantic and the Pacific.

Membership in the Commonwealth is an important aspect of Canadian foreign policy. Canada has consistently supported its expansion and development as a vigorous and effective association working for international peace and progress. Canadian