

with the United States it participates in aerospace surveillance and warning systems, active air defence, anti-submarine defence and measures designed to protect the deterrent capacity of the United States.

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

3.6.2.7

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 frequently meet to discuss various aspects of governmental policies and programs. In addition to informal consultations, there are official and technical committees in which Canadian and US officials discuss such bilateral questions as defence and transboundary environmental matters. For example, the International Joint Commission, an independent agency, was 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 a permanent joint board on defence and through NATO.

Canada and the US also work together on international questions in multilateral organizations such as the UN, the OECD, GATT, the IMF and others in which both countries are active members.

In trade, each is the other's best customer, and in 1977 two-way trade was approximately \$60 billion. Canada sells to the United States about 70% of all exports and buys from the US about 20% of all US exports.

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

3.6.2.8

Canada has long enjoyed close relations with the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. The current phase 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. State visits were made to Canada by the prime minister of Jamaica in 1976 and the prime minister of Guyana in 1977.

In 1977 Canadian investment in the region was estimated at approximately \$350.0 million; Canadian imports from the region totalled \$139.6 million while exports were valued at \$148.6 million. Canadian bilateral development assistance to the Caribbean, begun in 1958, has averaged approximately \$22.0 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 (including forestry). 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 250,000 visit the islands annually. 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.

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

3.6.2.9

Canada maintains diplomatic relations with all Latin American countries through 13 resident missions and dual or multiple accreditation from those missions. In addition, Canada is associated with the inter-American system through membership of observer status in many inter-American institutions including a permanent observer mission to the Organization of American States.

The growth of Canadian relations with Latin America has led to contacts and exchanges in many fields. The secretary of state for external affairs visited Brazil, Peru and Colombia in January 1977, and Mexico in April, to further relations in the region following the prime minister's 1976 visit to Mexico, Cuba and Venezuela. The deputy prime minister, the minister of trade and commerce, and the premier of New Brunswick travelled to Venezuela in 1977 and the minister of fisheries and the environment visited