

EXTERNAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND DEFENCE

21.1 Restructuring external operations

Restructuring of the department of external affairs (External Affairs Canada) announced in January 1982, was part of a reorganization of several government departments concerned with Canada's economic development. Its purpose was to improve the implementation of new policies for national economic expansion and enhance export trade ability. The result of these changes is a fundamentally changed departmental mandate which now includes responsibility for trade policy and trade promotion along with the traditional area of foreign policy and more recently acquired functions related to immigration.

In 1971 the support services of various departments operating programs abroad were incorporated in the department. In April 1981 the responsibility for immigration programs abroad was transferred to the department together with the foreign service staff of the Canadian employment and immigration commission. These programs include the recruitment of immigrants, the admission of refugees and the entry into Canada of tourists, students and temporary workers. Similarly, the field staff of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) was brought into the department.

In January 1982 when the federal government effected the major reorganization of its economic and external affairs departments, the international trade policy and trade promotion functions of the department of industry, trade and commerce were transferred to external affairs. In September 1983 a second phase of the new organization was implemented to integrate more closely the political, economic and trade functions of the department.

21.2 Canada's international status

The growth of Canada's international status is reflected in the development of the external affairs department since its establishment in 1909. Until the 20th century Canadian negotiations with foreign countries were conducted through the British foreign office and dealings with other parts of the Empire through a colonial office. The gradual recognition of

Canadian autonomy in international affairs and increased Canadian responsibilities abroad made expansion of services and representation after World War I inevitable and necessary. An important step in the evolution of Canada's international status was an agreement reached at the 1926 Imperial Conference allowing for Canadian sovereignty in international negotiations and affairs.

In the 1920s and 1930s Canada established its own diplomatic relations with several countries, including the United States, France and Japan. In 1983 there were 115 diplomatic and consular missions (plus 19 honorary consulates) in 124 countries; many Canadian embassies and high commissions are accredited to two or more governments, thus permitting Canada to maintain diplomatic relations with 68 additional countries. One hundred countries have diplomatic missions in Ottawa and another 47 states have non-resident accreditation. (See Appendix 5, Diplomatic and consular representation.)

Membership in international organizations has entailed establishment of permanent Canadian delegations to the United Nations in New York and at the organization's European headquarters in Geneva. There are also permanent Canadian missions to UN agencies in Paris; the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction Talks, Vienna; the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Brussels; the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Energy Agency, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Paris; and the European Community, Brussels. Canada also maintains a permanent observer mission to the Organization of American States in Washington, DC. In addition, officials of the external affairs department represent Canada at many international conferences.

Today, Canada's status is reflected in its role in international negotiations over such vital issues as human rights, the North-South dialogue, disarmament, law of the sea, energy management and nuclear non-proliferation.

Federal-provincial aspects. A federal-provincial co-ordination division in the external affairs