

consultative mechanisms cover such sectors as the environment, defence, energy, fisheries, transport and trade.

21.4.2 The Caribbean

Since Canada signed a trade and economic agreement with the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean market (CARICOM) in 1979, Canada's tangible commitment to this region has increased. In 1985, the Prime Minister announced that the Caribbean was a major priority for Canadian aid and development, and agreed to establish CARIBCAN, an economic and trade development assistance program. Its main features include extension of nearly 100% duty-free access to Canada of Caribbean products, and provision of facilities to strengthen their export capabilities.

Over the five-year period, 1984-88, aid to the Caribbean amounted to \$305.9 million, the highest per capita Canadian aid disbursements in the world. Canada is a founding non-regional member of the Caribbean Development Bank, and has a 12.5% share of the ordinary capital.

The Canadian public continues to follow extremely closely Haiti's path toward political stability. Canada's aid to Haiti is now channelled exclusively through non-governmental and multilateral organizations.

21.4.3 Latin America

Canada's ties with Latin America are continuing to expand and diversify. Through its observer status in the Organization of American States and full membership in a number of other inter-American institutions, as well as through the bilateral diplomatic relations it maintains with all the countries of Latin America, Canada has actively promoted wide political, economic and human contacts with the region.

At the political level, Canada has emphasized its full support for the revitalization of democratic institutions in Latin America, and for a resolution of the conflicts in Central America. The Secretary of State for External Affairs visited the latter area in November 1987 and reiterated Canadian willingness to offer practical assistance to the Esquipulas peace process, which had been given new momentum in August 1987, with the signing of the Esquipulas Peace Agreement by the five presidents of Central America.

Trade continues to be a major theme in Canadian relations with Latin America. As Latin America's recovery from the recession of the early 1980s has been hampered by the region's debt problems, Canada has worked closely with its hemispheric neighbours through multilateral

financial institutions to assist in formulating strategies to address the debt challenge in both the public and private sectors.

Another noteworthy feature of Canada's expanding relationship with Latin America is the growing number of immigrants from that region. In 1987, a total of 17,694 Latin American immigrants of all categories (including 4,321 refugees) were admitted to Canada, compared to 6,213 (including 437 refugees) in 1980.

21.4.4 Europe

Canada's historical, cultural and social ties with Western Europe are reinforced by a shared commitment to its security through membership in NATO and have been further strengthened in recent years through increasing economic, financial, trade and commercial relations. The European Economic Community, enlarged to 12 member states in 1986, has become the world's largest trading entity. It has launched an ambitious program aimed at the completion of a unified single market by 1992.

Western Europe is one of Canada's fastest growing export markets. Significantly, almost 60% of Canadian exports to Western Europe are higher value added goods, and five of Canada's top 10 markets are situated in Europe. Western European partners constitute Canada's largest overseas source of investments, technology and joint venture opportunities. Four of Canada's six Economic Summit partners are from Western Europe.

Canadian and Western European citizens, governments, private and public organizations, associations, institutions and corporations are, in increasing numbers, jointly involved in activities spanning a wide range of Canada's national interests: political consultations, security and defence co-operation, joint research and development activities, arts and cultural exchanges, investment, tourism and immigration flows. They all contribute to a relationship that is rich and diversified.

Canada seeks to expand dialogue with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe across the entire spectrum of political and economic relations. Canada's objective is to build bridges of understanding, confidence, and security but at the same time to pursue specific Canadian objectives: improvement in the human rights practices of some Warsaw Pact countries; expansion of human contacts, including family reunification and travel; academic and cultural exchanges; and assisting Canadian business to pursue the opportunities presented by greater openness in the USSR and Eastern