

(NORAD), an integrated command system combining air defence units from both countries. The NORAD agreement setting up the command was reviewed in 1973 and extended for a two-year period through May 1975.

As a forum for allied consultation, NATO is also involved in non-military activities. The NATO Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society, along with the NATO Science Committee, is concerned with exchanges of views, experience and information among NATO countries on scientific, ecological and environmental problems. Canada has participated actively in this committee and extended an invitation to the NATO Council to host the plenary meeting of the NATO CCMS Committee in April 1973. Canada is also one of the leading participants in the projects dealing with pollution of inland and coastal waters. 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.

3.6.2.7 Canada and the United States

Relations with the United States are of vital importance to Canada and constitute what is in many respects a unique phenomenon in international relations. Geography has made the two countries neighbours and community of interest has made them friends, while the demographic realities and economic patterns present Canada with the challenge of living distinct from but in harmony with the world's most powerful nation. The two countries are one another's best customer: Canada sells to the United States just less than three quarters of all exports and buys almost one fifth of all US exports in an exchange of goods that now totals close to \$33 billion a year.

Co-operation in bilateral and multilateral affairs continues to demonstrate shared interests of both countries. Canada, like the US, is an active member of the United Nations and its many specialized agencies, participates in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and other important international organizations at which opportunities are provided to share viewpoints. Bilaterally, there are many official and technical committees and bodies which facilitate co-operation between the two countries and provide for a free interchange of information and opinions on matters of mutual interest ranging from economic matters to defence, to maintenance of clean environments. A key agency is the International Joint Commission, an independent agency jointly established by the United States and Canada to deal with the regulation of flows of boundary waters and the abatement of transboundary air and water pollution. It is responsible for administering the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1972.

3.6.2.8 Canada and the Commonwealth Caribbean

The current phase of Canadian relations with the Commonwealth Caribbean dates from the Commonwealth Caribbean-Canada Conference of 1966, which established the broad guidelines for developing relations between the two areas. Considerable progress has been made in implementing the recommendations agreed to at that Conference. As part of the continuing process of consultation, a special Canadian Mission to the Commonwealth Caribbean in the fall of 1970 visited 13 countries and territories to discuss specific matters of common interest.

By the end of 1973 Canadian investment in the region was estimated at over \$500 million. In the same year, Canadian imports from the region totalled \$70.0 million while exports were valued at \$128.9 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 1973, 21,900 West Indians immigrated to Canada. There are Canadian High Commissions in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and Barbados, and these four countries 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), Montserrat, and Grenada.