

solution of the resources issues and a mutually-acceptable agreement would be possible on the maritime boundaries of the two countries. Intensive negotiations continued during the latter part of the year. A further report was expected from the negotiators in March 1978.

## **Defence**

During 1977, Canada and the United States continued to co-operate on a range of bilateral defence questions. Agreement was reached to permit U.S. military aircraft to disperse to selected bases in Canada in times of crisis, in accordance with policy recommendations made in the Canadian White Paper on Defence. The Canada/United States Joint Board on Defence held discussions during 1977 on such issues as the redefinition of NORAD boundaries and the modernization of air-surveillance and control systems.

## **Public affairs**

There has been a growing recognition that public-affairs activities are an indispensable complement to direct government and commercial contacts by Canadian representatives abroad. The largest portion of the Department's public-affairs resources has been directed towards the United States. The Canadian Embassy in Washington, and the eight consulates general and seven consulates in the United States, launched a number of public-affairs programs in 1977, concentrating on relations with the information media. When Prime Minister Trudeau visited Washington in February to meet President Carter, the posts in the United States conducted a media campaign that contributed to extensive coverage of the event and appreciation of the issues discussed. Widespread media attention and positive editorial opinion in the United States on the Canada-U.S. northern natural-gas pipeline agreement were fostered by the public-affairs efforts of the posts, which were also active in providing current and balanced information on the Canadian national-unity issue. The posts continued to encourage the development of Canadian studies programs at important universities in the United States. There was also a considerable co-ordinated effort to make Canadian literature and the Canadian visual and performing arts better known to U.S. audiences. (See also chapter "Public Affairs and Press Relations".)