

THE UNITED STATES (cont.)

- The extent and complexity of the relationship defies traditional categorization. While both governments use many of the classic diplomatic techniques in their attempts to manage the relationship, large dimensions of the relationship are in practice beyond the reach of governments.
 - In part for this reason, and because Canadian and American interests are not always the same, it is unavoidable that there will be disputes and disagreements from time to time, despite the enormous goodwill which exists on both sides of the border. In the past decade, new areas of disagreement have arisen on the protection of the environment, particularly acid rain, and on the threat to water quality posed by chemical pollutants. There have also been occasions when Canadian views on foreign policy issues have not coincided with those of the U.S. government.
 - In recent years, a particular Canadian concern has been the efforts by U.S. pressure groups to protect their domestic markets against foreign, including Canadian, imports. For Canada, secure and enhanced access to the U.S. market is vital to our economic prosperity.
 - Effective management of relations has been complicated recently by the increasingly segmented nature of the U.S. governmental system. Congress, the courts, regulatory agencies, state governments, and lobbies and political action committees all play strong, independent roles. Canadian participation in the U.S. domestic arena has become necessary for the effective defence of our interests.
 - It is the policy of the Canadian Government to develop a new, constructive relationship with the United States. There is a large measure of agreement on broad objectives and policy approaches; when we disagree, we express our views clearly but in a civil manner.
- The Prime Minister and the President have agreed to meet annually; the two foreign ministers are to continue to meet quarterly. Consultations take place between defence ministers on both the security and economic aspects of defence relations. Other ministers are also engaged in extensive contacts. The Prime Minister and the President have named Special Envoys to examine the problem of acid rain. The private sector has a role to play in advising on the conduct of the relationship.
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- We have 14 diplomatic, consular and trade offices in the United States.