

The change in administration in the United States in 1969 created the need for a re-establishment of personal contact between the Governments of Canada and the United States. In March, the Prime Minister, accompanied by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, paid an official visit to Washington that involved working discussions with the President, the Secretary of State and other members of the new United States Cabinet. They covered a number of subjects of bilateral concern, *inter alia*: the future of NATO; the Safeguard System and its possible implications for Canada; cross-border movement of oil; and Canadian plans for a domestic communications satellite. The joint summary issued at the end of the talks began:

"The President of the U.S.A. and the Prime Minister of Canada exchanged views on a wide range of international and bilateral matters. They seek a close, confident relationship between the two countries. The Prime Minister's visit has put the foundations in place for a continuing discussion on a number of questions.

"The President has stated that he values the views and the outlook which the Prime Minister has imparted to him. The President said: 'The viewpoint of the Canadian Government has always weighed heavily in the formation of United States policy. No other ally influences us more.' The Prime Minister of Canada stressed that his Government is anxious to maintain and develop Canada's already close and friendly relations with the United States."

The "continuing discussion" foreseen in the communiqué has been followed up with further visits exchanged individually by Canadian Ministers and their United States counterparts. At the beginning of June the twelfth annual meeting of the Canada-United States Inter-parliamentary Group was held in Ottawa, Banff and Jasper, at which Canadian Members of Parliament met with U.S. Congressmen to discuss subjects of common interest, particularly in the fields of resources, trade and transportation. Near the end of that month, the Canada-United States Joint Ministerial Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs met in Washington with an agenda covering a full range of economic and financial questions of bilateral import, including the balance-of-payments situation, investment, the Law of the Sea, the Canada-U.S. Automotive Agreement, energy relations, bilateral trade in agricultural products, cross-border water pollution and United States immigration legislation. The last subject is being thoroughly studied by a Canada-United States joint working party on immigration, which was set up following the ministerial meetings. The working party met first in early September and again in December to explore possible solutions for the problems facing Canadians as a result of new (1968) United States immigration legislation.

There were also two special visits across the border during 1969 which stressed the traditional friendship between Canada and the United States. In June the Prime Minister and President Nixon joined together in ceremonies at Massena in New York State and at Montreal to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the St. Lawrence Seaway and to pay tribute to this achievement in engineering and international co-operation. Then, at the beginning of December, the *Apollo XI* astronauts came to Ottawa and Montreal, where they were warmly welcomed by thousands of Canadians.