

regulating of boundary waters. More recently, however, the International Joint Commission has come to assume a much wider role, in a variety of bilateral environmental subjects. It is now and will continue to be a most valuable instrument in helping to manage this sector of our relationship.

We have also, of course, the classical instrument for conducting business between states, our Embassy in Washington, with its network of 15 consular missions located throughout the United States. In recent years, we have been giving priority to building up this network so that it can effectively support the Embassy in promoting and defending the full range of Canadian interests.

For example, increased emphasis is being placed on providing the American public as well as the United States Administration with quick and accurate information on Canada and Canadian policies of interest to Americans. This programme has already paid an important dividend. I believe that it was the energetic public information work of our Embassy and consular missions in the United States in recent months, which did much to head off misinterpretation and misunderstanding by many Americans, of Canadian policy on our oil exports to the United States. The process of strengthening our missions in the United States to meet such demands continues.

To sum up, Mr. Chairman, we are in a new phase of our relations with the United States, in which both countries are adjusting to new conditions abroad and more affirmative national policies at home. In both bilateral and multilateral matters we can expect a period of negotiation and adjustment over a wide range of issues which will need careful handling. There will be a continuing need to select our policies on their own merits in an unemotional, business-like and positive fashion.