

grants have been used to support the construction and maintenance of schools, hospitals and other projects in less developed nations. The Departments of Advanced Education and Manpower and Agriculture supply expertise for projects of the Canadian International Development Agency in Third World nations. The Department of Agriculture has also been an active participant in preliminary discussions on agricultural development in less-developed countries.

There is also a provincial interest in Canada/United States relations. A common border with Montana means that Alberta has frequent communication with that state. The Premier of Alberta and the Governor of Montana have met to discuss problems of mutual interest. Alberta's common interests with the United States transcend, however, the limited matter of province-state interests, as evidenced by the maintenance of the office in Los Angeles and the undertaking of a mission by the Premier in 1976. Trade relations between the two countries are extremely important, and modifications in either Canadian or U.S. government policy can have important consequences for Alberta producers. For example, a change in beef quotas has an impact on the entire agriculture industry in the province. Reductions in the export of oil and natural gas also have a direct effect on the Alberta economy. The development of new markets for petrochemicals is an immediate concern of the provincial government. The negotiation of the Canada/United States pipeline treaty has involved discussions with the provinces, including Alberta.

*Vital interest  
of provinces  
in relations  
with United States*

The list is a long one, but what should be recognized is that Canada/United States relations with respect to trade and other matters are of more than passing interest. The need for a more prominent role for the provinces in Canada-U.S. relations was recognized by the Canadian Senate in its recent report on this matter. During the development of Canadian Government policy, it is essential that the interests and concerns of all parts of the country be taken into consideration. To this end, a useful information flow has been established between the Canadian Embassy in Washington, the Department of External Affairs, and interested provincial governments. So far this two-way exchange has been most beneficial.

Alberta has not actively pursued the establishment of formal arrangements with other countries or with states of other federations. The need for this type of arrangement has been obviated by the treaties on cultural and scientific activities

that Canada has entered into with a number of countries. For example, the periodic review of activities specified under the Canada-France and Canada-U.S.S.R. cultural treaties has taken provincial representatives have been involved not only in the discussions in Canada but also at the bilateral meetings where forthcoming activities under the treaty were assessed.

**Trade**

Alberta, with other provinces, has a strong interest in the question of foreign trade in general and the current negotiations on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in particular. This interest is apart from concerns arising from the United States trade relations, and the developments emerging from overseas offices and missions. Any modification of Canada's tariff policy may or may not be detrimental to the province. Certain policies may be developed that reflect the interests of the industrial heartland at the expense of those provinces depending primarily on the sale of raw materials and resources. This concern was expressed by the Western premiers at their meeting in April 1976. Discussions have taken place between Alberta officials and officials representing Canada at the GATT negotiations. A greater say and role have been claimed for the provinces in any agreement arrived at in Geneva. It has been pointed out that any such agreement have significant long-term consequences for the development of provincial economies.

A few years ago, the question of provincial participation in international conferences was a *cause célèbre*. As an idea has died down and, because the provinces have something to contribute, provincial governments have participated, for example, members of the Canadian delegation to the World Population Conference in Bucharest, the World Food Congress in Rome, and *Habitat* in Vancouver. (In this context it seems strange that a more active role in GATT negotiations has not been pursued.) Comments emerging from these conferences strongly suggest that the role of the provinces was positive and strengthened the total Canadian contribution. Alberta, for example, was also invited to participate in the Law of the Sea Conference, but for obvious reasons declined. Coastal provinces, however, like Newfoundland and British Columbia, would have a strong interest in such deliberations.

Over the past few years, Alberta has been host to a number of foreign delegations visiting Canada, as well as to less ambassadors accredited to Ottawa. For example, the first major trip