

to St. Lucie in January, and several parliamentary visits. Leaders of all the Commonwealth Caribbean countries attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Vancouver in September.

Haiti

The problem of democratic liberalization in Haiti was a focus of interest for Canadians in late 1987. The presidential election of November 29, for which Canada provided technical assistance, was cancelled because of election-day violence. New presidential elections were held in January, but were boycotted by most major candidates and a large part of the population. The Canadian government made known in strong terms its disappointment at the failure of democracy in Haiti. A group of Canadian parliamentarians was formed to investigate the situation in Haiti and to review ties between the two countries.

Organization of American States

Canada maintained its Permanent Observer status at the Organization of American States as well as full membership in three of its specialized organizations: the Pan-American Health Organization, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History. Canada was host for the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture along with the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture in Ottawa.

While the office of the Permanent Observer Mission remained in Washington, the position of Ambassador was relocated to Ottawa and the new responsibilities of Roving Ambassador for Latin America were added to it. These changes were designed to facilitate stronger ties between OAS agencies and interested public and private sector organizations in Canada and, at the same time, to heighten awareness of Canada's interest in the region.