

have also existed between the trade expansion people in Ottawa and their provincial counterparts. The provincial officials visit Ottawa periodically, and our officials visit the provinces with equal frequency for consultations with their provincial counterparts. These consultations have to do with setting priorities on both sides, planning promotional programs and working together to implement them in order to use our resources and our expertise better. To illustrate, the consultations touch on matters such as trade fair programs, applications for PEMD assistance so as to avoid duplication with the existing programs in certain provinces, and seminars in which provincial representatives are invited to participate. In addition to the visits that generally occur three or four times a year with the provinces most involved in international trade, a good deal of discussion takes place by telephone.

This cooperation also exists between our Trade Commissioners abroad and the provincial officers, especially in the United States, where there are many provincial delegations. We are in touch almost daily with many of the provincial agents.

The quality of cooperation between us and the Quebec external trade people is no different from the other provinces. It is not affected by political factors. Its purpose is to provide better coordination of activities and better use of resources and to provide a service for the businessman wishing to work in a given market.

In 1979, Quebec's exports were \$13.4 billion, or 22% of the gross domestic product, and in 1980 they rose to \$17.2 billion, or 25% of the GDP. In 1981, 22% of all Canadian exports were from Quebec.