

CHAPTER 1 OVERVIEW OF 1989/90

The year 1989/90 was an active and memorable one for External Affairs and International Trade Canada. World events such as the historic breach of the Berlin Wall and the improvement of East-West relations in Europe allowed Canada to respond creatively in support of political and economic reforms. In this vein, the most significant event for Canada was the signing of 14 major agreements and 20 commercial agreements with the Soviet Union during the Prime Minister's visit in November 1989. These agreements pave the way for increased trade with the U.S.S.R. and present an array of opportunities for new cultural and intellectual sharing between the two countries.

During the Prime Minister's official visit to Mexico in March 1990, ten agreements were signed covering a wide range of mutual interests including trade, the environment, drug trafficking and legal cooperation. The visit reflected the increased importance being attached generally to Latin America, and particularly Mexico.

The Department made headway in other important areas as well. Energy

Acronyms for this chapter are listed on page 14.



Mr. Clark stopped to chat with a child on his visit to Mexico in March 1990.

and the environment became the focus of many international meetings at which fruitful discussions took place and in some cases progressive declarations were made. Major political and diplomatic efforts were made to strengthen Canadian collaboration with a unified Europe for the purpose of minimizing barriers and increasing awareness of trade opportunities. Canada launched the process of further enhancing its political and economic relations with the European Community (EC) as it progressed towards realization of a unified Single Market