

"International Canada" is a paid supplement to *International Perspectives* supplied by External Affairs Canada. Each supplement covers two months and provides a comprehensive summary of Canadian government statements and of political discussion on Canada's position in international affairs. It also records Canadian adherence to international agreements and participation in international programs. The text is prepared by *International Perspectives*.

# Bilateral Relations

## USA

### Air Agreements

On August 21, then Minister for International Trade Francis Fox and US ambassador to Canada Paul Robinson Jr. signed two air transport agreements designed to facilitate air service between the two countries. One agreement established an experimental program at Mirabel Airport, permitting both Canadian and US carriers to develop "innovative pricing and service concepts" providing a greater number of options for transborder travel. The program is geared to an expected increase in passenger volume at Mirabel, and follows a significant growth in freight operations, according to an External Affairs communiqué August 21.

The second agreement was also intended to implement in a practical way the air transport liberalization policy announced by the Transport ministry in June 1984, stated Mr. Fox. This agreement simplifies the administrative process for "smaller" or "secondary" air carriers, both Canadian and US, flying transborder routes. This simplification procedure, it was hoped, would allow greater flexibility for expansion purposes.

### Beirut Embassy Attack

External Affairs Minister Joe Clark delivered a message of condolence to the US through American Secretary of State George Shultz on September 20, following a terrorist attack on the American Embassy premises in Beirut, Lebanon, which claimed American lives. The Minister expressed in his text "deep shock" at the "brutal and senseless attack" against the compound, and extended to Mr. Shultz, to "the families of the victims, and to . . . colleagues in the foreign service" his "deepest sympathies." Mr. Clark noted the "often appalling risks to which their [foreign service personnel] commitment exposes them" (External Affairs communiqué, September 20).

### Reagan-Mulroney Meeting

Immediately following the September 17 swearing in of Brian Mulroney as Prime Minister, the Reagan administration extended an invitation for a Washington meeting

on September 25. The invitation was viewed by the press as an attempt to solidify the relationship established between the two leaders earlier in the year on June 21, when Mr. Mulroney was still leader of the Opposition. White House spokesman Larry Speakes stated that the visit was an outgrowth of Mr. Mulroney's campaign call for "better ties with the United States, and more frequent meetings with the President" (*Globe and Mail*, September 19). Mr. Speakes indicated that the President would seek to secure from Mr. Mulroney his views on "East-West relations, Atlantic Alliance cohesion and arms control measures," all primarily global rather than specifically bilateral issues. The goal of the Mulroney presence was to re-establish the "special relationship," especially in the trade and investment sectors, that had existed between Canada and the US prior to controversies that had arisen in the early 1980s over nationalist measures in Canada.

Press reports had been quick to note, prior to the meeting of the two leaders, the closeness in world views expressed by both Prime Minister Mulroney and President Reagan. While Prime Minister Trudeau had several times disassociated himself and Canada from the US interpretation of the East-West situation, Mr. Mulroney had expressed stronger support for American policy. A cornerstone of his election campaign had been the refurbishment of the US-Canada "special relationship" of "mutual trust." In August, responding to the Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament, Mr. Mulroney had affirmed a belief in the desire of the US administration to achieve "nuclear arms agreements that will be credible and verifiable . . . I feel that present American foreign policy is based on a consistent, underlying principle: to obtain from the Soviets agreements that will produce a mutually acceptable code of international conduct." Mr. Mulroney had also expressed his intention to see Canada "pull its weight within the NATO alliance," welcome words for the Reagan administration (*The Citizen*, September 22, 25).

Out of the September 25 meeting emerged a decision to hold similar working meetings at least yearly, as well as to have Canadian Cabinet members meet with their US