

Furthermore, the most reliable data available indicate a reasonable expectation of attributable export earnings in the range of \$45,000 to \$55,000 per successful company over a similar period. This suggests that the 1989/90 NEBS program may return up to \$25 million to the Canadian economy over the next year.

Trade Minister Crosbie led an Atlantic Canada NEBS mission to Boston. He also led a NEXUS mission, focussed on electronic components, to South California, a furniture NEXUS mission to South Florida and an Atlantic Canada Business Leaders mission to Puerto Rico. During these visits, he presided at the official opening ceremonies of new satellite offices in San Diego, Miami, and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

#### *Environmental and Transboundary Issues*

The acid rain issue remains high on the Canada-U.S. bilateral agenda. During the past year, the Department made progress towards U.S. acid rain control legislation and a bilateral air quality accord. These agreements will be of great benefit to Canada.

The work of implementing the protocol amending the Great Lakes Quality Agreement began in 1988 and progress

continued in 1989. Canada increased its contribution to meeting the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement objectives with the announcement of an additional \$125 million Great Lakes Action Plan. In addition, Canada monitored the draft legislation in the United States on import and export of hazardous waste.

The Free Trade Agreement has provided assured access for Canadian energy exports. Natural gas exports have reached their highest levels ever, at 1.32 trillion cubic feet. This is an increase of 6 per cent over last year.

Canada coordinated bilateral consultative mechanisms in the surface and marine transportation modes and addressed concerns such as the possible extra-territorial application of U.S. drug testing rules to Canadian transporters. As a result of Canada's intervention and that of several other countries, the U.S. agreed to a blanket exemption from drug testing until January 1, 1992.

Canada participated in negotiations concerning the coordination of the ANIK-E satellite. Also, Canadian film and publishing policies remained issues of interest in the United States.