

Canada also made representations against United States Congressional bills which would have contravened the environmentally sound principles on which the Canada-U.S. Agreement on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste is based.

The FTA has provided assured access to the United States market for Canadian energy exports, mainly oil, natural gas and electricity. Natural gas exports have reached a record 1.42 trillion cubic feet and represent 7.7 percent of United States consumption.

Canada announced its intention to initiate negotiations with the United States to establish a new bilateral air transport agreement.

In the field of communications, the Copyright Board established the first Canadian royalty regime

for copyright holders (both Canadian and foreign) of distant signals retransmitted by cable television.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS

Canada maintains a high profile with decision makers in the United States through public affairs campaigns aimed at the U.S. public and its lawmakers, to reinforce the image of Canada as a fair trading partner, an active monitor of environmental issues, and a responsible partner in defence and security.

Regular contact with members of both federal and state Congresses has helped prevent protectionist trade practices and has generated increased appreciation of Canadian affairs.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In the second year of the government's Strategy on Latin America, contacts between government and business leaders have intensified. Trade over the period increased significantly, with Canadian exports to Latin America rising by 8.1 percent.

In February 1990, the announcement of talks for a Canada-Mexico-United States free trade zone signalled a new era in Canada's economic relations in North America with major implications for the entire hemisphere.

In June 1990, the Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry, was the first Canadian minister to attend the Organization of American States (OAS) General Assembly, which was held in Paraguay. A Canadian initiative to establish a Unit for the Promotion of Democracy was unanimously adopted. Canada has become an involved participant in the OAS, taking part in the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and the OAS-sponsored Ministerial Meeting for the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission in Mexico.

In spring 1990, Les Grand Ballets Canadiens toured Mexico, Venezuela and Brazil to critical acclaim. The tour was made possible through the financial assistance of the Department.

Canada's activities in Central America and the Caribbean focused on consolidating and strengthening democratic institutions. In the Haitian elections, Canada provided \$1 million in material and technical support, as well as a number of observers, both civilian and military. Canadian

election support was dispatched to El Salvador, Guatemala and Guyana.

Canada's support for the Central American peace process continued in 1990 with participation in the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA). In September, preliminary peace talks took place between the National Revolutionary Unity of Guatemala (URNG) and representatives of Guatemala's major employer associations. The talks took place in Ottawa, at the request of the parties involved. This was in recognition of Canada's role as a reliable facilitator, genuinely interested in promoting peace in the region.

TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA

Throughout Latin America, economic reforms are having a major impact on Canadian trade relations in the area. Canada's exports and investment in the region are on the rise.

Brazil, beginning its economic liberalization, continued as Canada's second most important trading partner in Latin America, with two-way trade amounting to \$1.3 billion. Despite a severe economic recession in Brazil, Canada's exports amounted to \$490 million. In addition to substantial wheat sales, Canada also exported aircraft engines, coal, potash, copper ore, newsprint and sulphur.

In Venezuela, Canadian exporters continue to take advantage of the economic liberalization introduced by President Carlos Andres Perez. In 1990, Canadian sales to Venezuela increased by almost