

particularly on fisheries and environmental issues. In parallel high-priority negotiations, several bilateral agreements arising from Canada's extension of its fisheries jurisdiction to a distance of 200 miles from its coasts were concluded during the year.

Reflecting the national identity abroad

The Department continued during 1977 to ensure that Canadian foreign policy fully reflected Canada's bilingual and multicultural nature. Canada's relations with the English-speaking and the French-speaking countries of the world continued to develop vigorously. The facilitation of human contacts, pursued in conformity with the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, was of major interest to many Canadians with ties to former homelands. Co-ordination of the international interests of the provinces reflected the Canadian Government's determination to express fully the national interest on the international plane. Programs of cultural exchange with a growing number of countries reflected the diversity of the Canadian heritage.

The way ahead

The challenges Canada will face in the critical area of international relations became clearer during the year. The welfare of Canadians will depend increasingly on better solutions to global economic and political problems. Public understanding and co-ordinated policy-management will be more important than ever if Canada is to adapt to the economic and political imperatives of an increasingly interdependent world. In this way, Canada can play an appropriate part in shaping a more peaceful, co-operative and prosperous global community that fulfils the hopes and responds to the interests of Canadians.

The House of Commons held a special debate on foreign-policy questions on December 19 and 20. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, made an opening statement dealing with various issues, including international economic development, Canada's relations with the United States, the European Community and France, nuclear safeguards, human rights and the current state of the Middle East and Southern Africa. Members of all parties in the House then took part in a wide-ranging debate on Canada's place in the world.