

conflict and so promote effective solutions.

The division advises the Secretary of State for External Affairs on international matters that involve provincial governments and on policy matters relating to the expanding interests of the provinces in the international arena.

The division assists the provinces in other ways. For example, it makes available to provincial officials the services of the Department's network of foreign missions and of its extensive telecommunications facilities. It co-ordinates the increasing number of visits abroad by provincial authorities and by foreign officials to the provinces. Within the framework of normal diplomatic practice, the division helps establish contact between provincial and foreign governments. It seeks to ensure that provincial concerns are articulated as part of Canada's activities in international organizations through the provision of information, the process of consultation, and provincial representation on delegations to certain international conferences. It consults regularly with the provinces on Canada's accession to international agreements that involve provincial jurisdiction. The division has developed and is putting into practice procedures whereby information and documentation relating to provincial interests in the United States

and the European Community are regularly sent to provincial authorities.

The *Commonwealth Institutions Division* co-ordinates Canada's multilateral relations with the 37 independent countries of the Commonwealth, as well as with the Commonwealth Secretariat in London and the many Commonwealth official and non-governmental organizations.

In the governmental field, these responsibilities involve, among other things, co-ordinating Canada's participation in Commonwealth heads-of-government meetings and senior officials' (secretaries to cabinet) conferences, as well as advising and working with the functional divisions, departments and agencies involved in Commonwealth meetings and programs in the various fields of Commonwealth functional co-operation. In carrying out these functions, the division serves as the main channel for formal communications with the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.

In the non-governmental field, the division also has an advisory and liaison role with regard to Canadian association with the 300-odd non-governmental institutions and organizations that operate on a Commonwealth basis.