
Western Hemisphere

protection, natural resources management, urban and economic planning, and industrial technology, to name a few. As a result, exchanges of information and visits from representatives of all three levels of government and private enterprise continued to increase during 1974.

Canada-Sweden ties were strengthened by the visit to Canada of the Prime Minister of Sweden, Olof Palme, in October. Mr. Palme and Prime Minister Trudeau agreed to expand scientific, technological and industrial co-operation and to broaden the areas of consultation in other fields.

The generally affluent nature of the Nordic economies, and notably the major discovery of oil in the Norwegian North Sea, presented attractive trading opportunities, although these were partially offset by the similar nature of Canadian and Nordic production. Canadian exports to the Nordic countries rose, as did imports from those countries, resulting in a small Canadian trade deficit. Norway remained Canada's main Nordic export market.

Immigration from the Nordic countries has not been large, but those immigrants who have come to Canada have integrated quickly into Canadian society because of their high entrepreneurial and technical skills.



King Carl XVI Gustaf receives 140 Canadian school-children during ten-day visit to Sweden.
Freddy Lindstrom Photo.

Of all Canada's international relations the most intense and complex are with the United States. The massive trade in both directions across the border, the substantial investments held by citizens of each country in the other, the common border presenting opportunities for co-operation in such areas as transportation, environment and defence—all these factors and others, taken together, have led to a mutually beneficial relationship rewarding to both countries. The importance of the Canadian relationship with the United States is further illustrated by the fact that, of the 33 Canadian missions in the hemisphere, 16 are located in the U.S.

In 1974, in the western hemisphere as elsewhere, Canada vigorously pursued the "Third Option" which was defined by the Government in 1972 and pursuant to which our relations with the U.S. were to be maintained and reinforced while, in order to reduce Canadian vulnerability, relations with other countries and regions were to be developed stronger relations with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In Latin America, Canadian policies and activities have been responding to the dynamism of the region, taking into account the unique characteristics of each of the countries. Our interests have been further identified and diversified with a view to ensuring for Canada a growing role in the hemispheric community.

In the Commonwealth Caribbean, Canada continued to develop its already close relations. Note was taken of economic developments in certain of the countries of the region which, when plans for industrial development are in a more advanced stage, could lead to Canadian-Caribbean relations on a somewhat different level than in the past.