

Canada's activities were reflected within the Canadian Government by the formation of the Interdepartmental Committee on Economic Relations with Developing Countries, under the chairmanship of the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Science and environment

The Department of External Affairs co-ordinates Canadian foreign policy in the realms of science, technology and the environment. On the domestic level, the Department collaborates with other federal departments, with the provincial governments and with private institutions. On the international level, it is responsible for bilateral scientific and environmental relations and for Canadian involvement in certain multilateral technical agencies of the UN, NATO, the Commonwealth and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). In 1975, Canada was specially interested in formulating policies for applying the results of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) to its international scientific, technological and environmental relations.

Science and technology

Canada continued in 1975 to devote attention to international technical organizations, in particular the Specialized Agencies of the UN, and technical groups within NATO and the OECD. Canada participated in the April meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group of the UN's Committee on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), which discussed preparations for a proposed global conference on science and technology. Canada attended an October meeting of the NATO Science Committee in Reykjavik and a June ministerial meeting of the OECD's Committee on Scientific and Technology Policy (CSTP) in Paris. In September, Canada participated in the fourth session of the Senior Advisers on Science and Technology to Governments of the UN's Economic Commission for Europe (ECE); of special interest at this session were discussions on proposals for the implementation of the Final Act of the CSCE.

During 1975, Canada continued to participate in international activities aimed at harnessing space technology, taking part in the

eighteenth session of the UN Outer Space Committee and signing the UN Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. Canada was granted observer status before the European Space Agency and its International Relations Advisory Group. Canada renegotiated an agreement with the United States on the Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS), and agreement was reached between the National Research Council (NRC) and the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on the development in Canada of the remote manipulator for the NASA space shuttle. An inter-agency agreement was also negotiated between EMR's Canada Centre for Remote Sensing and France's Centre national des Etudes spatiales.

Scientific and technological relations with the United States are generally conducted on an informal basis, directly between the institutions or agencies concerned. The Department is called upon only in special situations where a foreign policy element exists or where there is a direct link with the Canada-U.S. relationship. Mention has already been made in this connection of co-operative programs in space technology. In the past year, we have seen the continuation of co-operation between Canada's Pacific Research Ocean and Aquatic Affairs Centre and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Pacific Marine Center on tide and current studies in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and adjacent areas. Canada's participation in the U.S. Global Air-Sampling Program has continued, as have U.S.-Canadian experiments co-ordinated through the Polar Continental Shelf Project; and joint research in fisheries, investigation of coastal waters and Great Lakes experiments has continued. In addition, joint research projects on Canadian territory have been facilitated — in Western Canada (where there has been a NASA study of the stratosphere involving high-altitude investigations) and in the North (where a joint barium-ion cloud experiment has been conducted in the magnetosphere in the area of the north magnetic pole).

Scientific exchanges between Canada and China continued. Chinese experts in permafrost engineering, biological insect control and fisheries research visited Canada, while Canadian missions interested in veterinary medicine, seismology and forestry science visited China. A month-long study visit by a Canadian