

America Division is concerned with all aspects of Canada's relations with the U.S.A. (Canada's most important external tie), and advises on the handling of a variety of issues at play in relations between the two countries — notably environmental matters. This division also supervises the operations of the Canadian Embassy in Washington and 15 consulates and consulates general throughout the United States. The 20 countries of Latin America — including the Caribbean islands of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti — are the concern of the *Latin American Division*, which is also responsible for advising the Canadian observer to the Organization of American States (OAS) and Canadian representatives to a variety of other inter-American agencies. The *Caribbean Division* is concerned with Canada's relations with the Commonwealth Caribbean, Bermuda and Surinam — a total of 19 territorial entities — and with some aspects of relations with the principal organization of the region, the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM).

Functional bureaux

Corresponding to the area bureaux are a number of bureaux organized on a *functional* basis: Technological and Economic Affairs; Defence and Arms Control Affairs; Legal Affairs; Consular Affairs; United Nations Affairs; Public Affairs; and Co-ordination.

Co-operation between the functional and area bureaux is essential to the attainment of the Department's objectives. Each regional bureau, as the co-ordinating centre responsible for the shaping and management of "country" plans and programs, ensures that functional interests are reflected in post operations. Similarly, in the management of their operations, the functional bureaux respect the interests of the regional bureaux.

The *Bureau of Technological and Economic Affairs* co-ordinates and develops policy and initiatives touching on broader questions of major significance for Canada in international economic, scientific and environmental affairs. It comprises four divisions: Aid and Development; Commercial Policy; Transport, Communications and Science and Environment Division.

The *Aid and Development Division* provides a focus for co-ordination of departmental views on aid-policy questions and a channel for consultation with the Canadian International Development Agency and with other government departments and agencies that have an interest in particular aspects of development-assistance