

A STRATEGY FOR OUR NORTH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

will further develop Canada-U.S. cooperation in other areas, involving other departments, including cooperation on maritime security as set out in the Defence document, and with regard to border issues, led by Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

COOPERATING ON SHARED GLOBAL OBJECTIVES

As international events increasingly affect North America, there are new opportunities for pursuing common global objectives. In many cases, we may wish to follow distinct but complementary paths, based on the different strengths of each country. For example, Canada and the United States already take this approach toward the stabilization, reconstruction and democratization of Afghanistan. Foreign Affairs will seek to promote continental collaboration on a number of key issues for Canada.

Specific Initiatives

Foreign Affairs will pursue Canada-U.S. cooperation with regard to:

- the transformation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to enable it to play a more effective role in peace support operations and counterterrorism;
- the reinforcement of democracy and other shared objectives of the Summit of the Americas process;
- the development of new multilateral mechanisms, such as the proposed Peacebuilding Commission for the United Nations;
- the need to better address new health threats, including infectious diseases; and
- control of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP

Canada-U.S. environmental cooperation dates back to the early 20th century, with the signing of the treaties

on migratory species and the creation of the International Joint Commission (IJC), which is responsible for boundary water management. The North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, concluded at the same time as NAFTA, established trilateral cooperation with the United States and Mexico. Today, we face new challenges, and there is a need to modernize our common approach. Foreign Affairs will, in close cooperation with key federal partners such as Environment Canada, as well as provincial and municipal authorities, seek new opportunities to strengthen continental cooperation in this area.

Specific Initiatives

- build on well-established Canada-U.S. relationships in air quality, and in water quantity and in quality, and strengthen cooperation on invasive species, chemicals management, climate change and Earth observation. Efforts will be undertaken to promote the clean and efficient use of energy resources, including initiatives in clean coal and renewable energy; and
- enhance the way in which these environmental partnerships are complemented by trilateral Canada-U.S.-Mexico engagement.

GETTING OUR MESSAGE ACROSS

Foreign Affairs has taken steps to bolster Canada's profile when pursuing our priorities south of the border. In addition to the Secretariat in our Washington Embassy, our Enhanced Representation Initiative (ERI), in cooperation with other departments, has led to the opening of new consulates in U.S. regions where Canadians have important interests at stake. We need to do more, however.

Effective cooperation in North America depends on mutual understanding. Even though our people-to-people ties with both countries are numerous—for example, the United States ranks as the fifth-largest single-country source of immigrants to Canada, and Mexico is now the leading source (ahead of the United States) of foreign worker flows to Canada—we are each evolving demographically. The 2000 U.S. Census