

NOTES ON CANADA/USA RELATIONS

The Magnitude and Complexity of the Relationship

No other two countries in the world have so complex and extensive a relationship as Canada and the United States. Two-way trade in 1980 was approximately Cdn \$94 billion, the two countries being each other's largest supplier and customer. Canada and the USA cooperate to ensure the security of the North American continent and through NATO, Western Europe as well. They share and manage an environment along a 5,000 mile border. There are countless personal, family, academic, cultural, professional and trade union ties. The two countries are each other's largest source and destination of tourists with over 30 million border crossings each way annually.

Management of the Relationship

Although most contacts between Americans and Canadians do not involve government participation, management at government level is essential to the harmony of the relationship. The embassies and diplomatic services of the two countries are the principal channels of communication on policy matters. The scope and complexity of Canada/United States cooperation are reflected in hundreds of bilateral agreements, arrangements and understandings on a vast array of subjects. Crossborder regional affinities are strong and there are many links between Canadian provinces and American states within their areas of jurisdiction.

Canadian Representation in the USA

In addition to the Embassy in Washington, Canada maintains fourteen consular posts in the USA (Atlanta, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle). Consulates represent Canada in their territories and implement general relations, trade, immigration, tourism, consular and cultural programs. Several Canadian provinces maintain non-diplomatic offices in the USA.

Trade and Investment

In 1980 the value of Canadian exports to the USA was over Cdn \$46 billion, over two-thirds of total Canadian exports. Canadian imports from the USA were over Cdn \$48 billion or about 20 per cent of all United States exports. The USA sells as much to Canada as to the entire European community and about twice as much as to its next largest single trading partner, Japan.