

Air relations with other countries

A new air agreement was concluded with Cuba. By an exchange of notes, the Canada-France Bilateral Air Agreement of 1950 was amended to add an air-route between Canada and the French Antilles. Eleven rounds of negotiations were held with such countries as Mexico, Barbados, Pakistan, Japan, France and Poland.

Transportation

In 1975, the Canadian Government continued to be active in international organizations concerned with transportation. At the same time, it continued to seek bilateral arrangements with other countries to expand Canadian transport opportunities and exchange information in the areas of transport technology and management. Canadian delegations participated in all committees, as well as the Council and Assembly of IMCO.

Development assistance

Canada's official development-assistance program continued to expand substantially in 1975, and disbursements reached a record level of approximately \$900 million.

Of major importance was the publication in September of the Strategy for International Development Co-operation, a blueprint for Canada's development co-operation policy for the period 1975-80. Two of the main objectives of the strategy are to increase the proportion of Canadian contributions to multilateral institutions, up to a maximum of about 35 per cent of the Canadian International Development Agency's total annual disbursements, and to concentrate more of Canada's bilateral program on countries at the lower end of the economic scale. Excluding food aid, contributions in 1975 to multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank, regional development banks and the UNDP, constituted 23.7 per cent of CIDA's total budget.

In fulfilment of its pledge at the World Food Conference in November 1974, Canada contributed one million tons of grains as food aid in 1975, the first year of a three-year commitment. A total of 400,000 tons was channelled multilaterally through the World Food Program, and most of the remainder was dispensed through CIDA's bilateral programs.

The administration of the Canadian development-assistance program is primarily the

responsibility of the Canadian International Development Agency. This is a separate organization that reports to Parliament through the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The Department, however, worked closely with CIDA and other government departments to elaborate policy and ensure co-ordination with other Canadian foreign policy interests. Canadian posts in the developing countries also made available additional manpower resources to share in the responsibility for administering the program.

Economic relations with developing countries

The year 1975 was noteworthy, both internationally and in Canada, for its record of activity on non-aid questions relevant to Canada's relations with developing countries.

Canada was an active participant in the successful seventh special session of the United Nations General Assembly, which was convened in September in New York to discuss all aspects of international economic development. Subsequently, Canada was chosen co-chairman of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation held in Paris. Canada is a member of the OECD High-Level Groups on North-South Relations and on Commodities, and a Canadian is serving on the Commonwealth Group of Experts on the New International Economic Order. A Canadian delegation participated actively in the Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in Lima, Peru. Trade, financial questions and other aspects of Canada's economic relations with developing countries were discussed in various bodies, including the International Monetary Fund, UNCTAD, the Commonwealth and, once again, the World Bank and regional development banks.

Canada continued to implement its system of generalized tariff preferences, designed to improve access for the products of developing countries to Canadian markets. Additional measures to liberalize trade in agricultural products were adopted in the context of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Geneva.

Canada also continued to play an active role in commodity consultations in the UNCTAD-FAO context, and participated in the negotiations of new commodity agreements on cocoa, tin and coffee.