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the Minister for International Trade, and on the U.S. side by Trade Representative Carla Hills. Among its responsibilities, the commission attempts to resolve disputes at an early stage and oversees the further elaboration of the Agreement.

It was to Canada that President Bush made his first official visit outside the United States, meeting with Prime Minister Mulroney in Ottawa on February 10, 1989. The Prime Minister and the President met again in Washington on May 5, 1989. At both meetings, they reaffirmed the commitment of their governments to negotiating an accord on transboundary air pollution (acid rain), which remains the major bilateral challenge between Canada and the United States; and to establishing the Free Trade Agreement as an effective tool for managing the bilateral trade and economic relationship. The meetings were also the occasion to acknowledge common security concerns, to review issues both countries wanted to see addressed at the Economic Summit in Paris and to reaffirm their shared commitment to a rejuvenated Western Alliance on the occasion of NATO's 40th anniversary.