

head-of-government level. An allied responsibility of these bureaux is the preparation of the policy-briefing and advisory materials associated with such visits.

Responsibility also devolves upon the area bureaux for supervising the allocation of resources at and between posts, and for ensuring the effective management of individual posts.

The *Bureau of African and Middle Eastern Affairs* consists of a headquarters office and three divisions — *African Affairs (Anglophone)*, *African Affairs (Francophone and Maghreb)* and *Middle Eastern Affairs*. It oversees the post operations of about two dozen Canadian diplomatic and consular missions within its extensive and diverse region. These missions are, in most cases, accredited to several countries where no residence is maintained as well as to the country of residence. Thus the bureau is concerned with Canada's relations with more than 50 countries.

The *Bureau of Asian and Pacific Affairs* directs the work of three divisions — *East Asia, Pacific and South Asia* — and through them the work of 17 diplomatic and consular missions in South and East Asia and in Oceania. An important task of this bureau is the implementation of the Canadian Government's "Third Option" policy, which it seeks to accomplish by expanding Canada's relations with the countries of the Pacific — and especially by broadening and deepening Canada's relations with Japan, the economic giant of this region.

The *Bureau of European Affairs*, through its component divisions (*Eastern European, Northwestern European and Western European*), supervises the operations of some 34 diplomatic and consular posts in Europe. This bureau, too, is deeply involved in the implementation of the "Third Option" policy, which is increasingly reflected not only in bilateral relations between Canada and individual European countries but also in Canada's involvement, with European countries, in multilateral institutions and activities such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the recently-established "contractual link" with the European Community.

The *Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs* co-ordinates Canada's relations with the United States and the countries of Latin America and the Commonwealth Caribbean. The *United States of*