

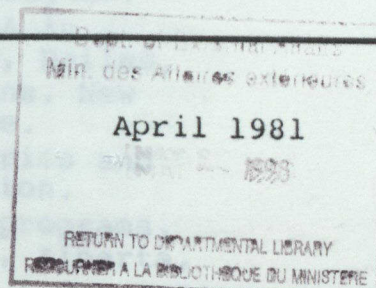
Canada

Canadian Foreign Policy

TEXTS

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CANADA/U.S. RELATIONS



The Magnitude and Complexity of the Relationship

Probably 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 and the two countries are 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, business 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.

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. Bilateral agreements, arrangements and understandings have been reached 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. The recent visit to Canada of President Reagan provided a valuable opportunity to establish personal contact between the two heads of government and produced a renewed commitment to careful management of the Canada/USA relationship.

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