

Today, a nation's defence policy is inseparable from its foreign policy. Thus, under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), of which it was a founding member in 1949, Canada has major defence commitments through contributions of sea, land and air personnel, as well as military equipment.

Also within the framework of NATO, Canada and the United States are linked by the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD) for their mutual protection.

Apart from Canada's defence contributions to NATO, it shares (with 14 other members) in the continuing exchange of information, opinions and plans regarding political, economic, cultural, scientific and environmental developments affecting the group. Canada has contributed nearly \$2 billion in equipment and training to other NATO countries.

Through the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Canada shares with other developed countries in discussions on trade and economic policies.

As a charter member of the United Nations, Canada has played, and continues to play, a prominent role in the affairs of the world organization.

Canada has participated in every peacekeeping operation undertaken by the United Nations since 1948—in Kashmir, Palestine, Korea, the Congo, West Irian, Yemen, Cyprus, the Middle East and India-Pakistan.

Canada is also active in international disarmament discussions in the UN, the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and elsewhere, and is also associated with the various international commissions established in Indochina.

Canada's long-standing friendly relations with the United States are unique. Both nations share a common heritage and similar standards of living, yet both grew to their present status in separate ways.

Mutual defence is of vital importance to both nations, and, since 1940, a Permanent Joint Board on

Defence has existed to co-ordinate and develop continental defence.

Because the two countries occupy the greater part of the northern half of the western hemisphere, many problems have arisen over boundary waters, canals and related matters, and, since 1909, an International Joint Commission has functioned successfully to help resolve difficulties to the satisfaction of both nations.

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