

Western Hemisphere

gation presented a facsimile edition of one of Iceland's greatest literary treasures, the *Flateyjarbok*, to the House of Commons and invited a Canadian delegation to visit Iceland.

During 1976, the first experimental shipping link was established between Reykjavik and Halifax; it was hoped that there would be a sufficient volume of trade to sustain it and to augment the modest level of commerce between the two countries.

Norway

There has long been close military co-operation between Canada and Norway in connection with NATO's northern flank. The Minister of National Defence visited Oslo in March to confer with colleagues and to observe a NATO exercise in which Canadian forces took part. The Norwegian Defence Commission visited Canada in June to study the Canadian defence structure.

The bonds of friendship with Canada were further strengthened in September when Crown Prince Harald unveiled a monument in Toronto commemorating "Little Norway" (where Norwegian airmen had trained in the Second World War), which he presented to the Canadian people. The Minister of State for Urban Affairs accepted the presentation on behalf of Canada. Some 150 Norwegian veterans and their families visited Toronto for the ceremony.

Its neighbours in the Western hemisphere are of prime importance for Canada. Canadian relations with the United States are more important and extensive than its relations with any other country. Further south, Latin America and the Commonwealth Caribbean constitute a major area for the implementation of Canada's policy of diversifying its foreign relations.

As in the past, Canada attached the highest importance to the management of its relations with the United States. In view of the magnitude, diversity and complexity of the interests involved in the relationship, differences of opinion were remarkably few. Bilateral issues were approached constructively by both sides, thus contributing to the effective management of relations and a high level of co-operation. During 1976, Canadians joined their American neighbours in the celebration of the U.S. Bicentennial by staging a number of special events. While the customary wide range of bilateral questions was considered by the two countries, they also took part, with other countries, in the consideration of global political, economic and social problems.

In 1976, Canada continued to develop its relations with the countries of Latin America, both on a bilateral basis and through inter-American institutions. The highlight of the year was the visit of the Prime Minister to Mexico, Cuba and Venezuela.

Canada's secure and long-established links with the Commonwealth Caribbean continued to evolve in the light of new Caribbean realities, which included the economic links of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) with the European Community through the Lomé Convention and the interest manifested by larger CARICOM states in closer relations with Eastern Europe. Negotiations continued towards a new trade and economic treaty between Canada and the CARICOM countries, which should constitute an important new element in Canadian relations with the Commonwealth Caribbean.