

Of particular interest is the Canada-United States Inter-parliamentary Group which was established in 1958 to provide a forum in which Canadian Parliamentarians and United States Congressmen can exchange views on matters of common concern to legislators in the two countries. Meetings are held yearly, alternating between Canada and the United States, with the host country providing the chairman. The group is divided into a Defence and Security Committee and a Trade and Economic Affairs Committee. Discussions are held in camera and a joint communiqué is issued at the close of each meeting giving a general outline of the discussions.

In addition to the various permanent organizations, joint ad hoc bodies are established from time to time in response to specific problems. A current example is the Canada-United States Working Party on Immigration which was set up following a meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs in June 1969 to consider the problems which have arisen as a result of the restriction of Canadian immigration into the United States.

2. THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The relationship between Canada and the United States is of such central importance that it engages the direct attention of the Prime Minister's Office and the Privy Council Office as well as that of External Affairs and other Departments of Government. Effective co-ordination under the direction of the Cabinet, the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, is vital to the orderly conduct of Canada-U.S.A. relations. The preponderant influence of the United States in world affairs, its geographical location and its position as Canada's principal trading partner require the Department of External Affairs to devote a great part of its personnel and effort to Canada-United States relations. There is no office or division in the Department that is not concerned to some degree with these relationships. In particular, the U.S.A. Division, the Office of Economic Affairs and the Office of Politico-Military Affairs devote a great part of their resources to these questions. In the Under-Secretary's office, the Deputy Under-Secretary and an Assistant Under-Secretary supervise all aspects of these relations. It is in this context of central engagement by the management of the Department that the work of various divisions and offices is carried on.

(i) The U.S.A. Division

This Division is concerned with the whole range of practical problems that arise between the two Governments. It has specific responsibility for matters of bilateral concern relating to the development of water resources, international bridges, international parks, water and air pollution, international fisheries commissions and fisheries conservation, shipping (including tolls and pilotage on the St. Lawrence Seaway system), and trans-border traffic and migration, in their international context. The Division works closely with the International Joint Commission, with the International Boundary Commission and with the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority and other international commissions and organizations concerned with Canada-United States matters. The Division is also responsible for co-ordinating interdepartmental views on the construction and maintenance of international bridges and on international transportation questions in Canada's Pacific Coast region. In close co-operation with the Embassy in Washington, it directs the activities of Canadian Consulates and Consulates-General in the United States.