

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

When the United States closed its airspace to all traffic following the September 11 terrorist attacks, over 33 000 stranded, anxious passengers landed in Canada on 224 international flights diverted to our territory. The small city of Gander, Newfoundland, with a population of some 10 000, took in 6595 people arriving in 38 aircraft.

On the day of the terrorist attacks, the 15 telephone lines in the Operations Centre of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in Ottawa received 5500 calls. Over the next two weeks a total of 24 000 calls were dealt with.

During the year 2000, some 48.6 million non-resident travellers (including almost 44 million U.S. residents) entered Canada; most were on business or tourism trips, and some entered the country more than once. Arriving by air were some 4.4 million residents of the United States and 3.8 million residents of other countries.

Measures announced by the Government of Canada since September 11 to counter terrorism and enhance national security across the country, at the border and other ports of entry, involve expenditures totalling an additional \$7.7 billion.

Some 1.8 million Canadian passports were issued during the fiscal year 2000/01, an increase of almost 9 percent over the previous year. There are currently approximately 8 million valid passports in circulation. On average, some 870 passports are issued every working hour of the day.

About 87 percent of Canada's exports go to the United States, while 25 percent of U.S. exports come to Canada. Trade between the two countries amounts to \$1.9 billion every day.

Before September 11, Canada had already ratified 10 of the 12 United Nations counterterrorism conventions. Its new Anti-Terrorism Act will allow it to ratify the remaining two.

Nearly 3000 Canadian Forces personnel have been deployed to the international coalition formed to conduct the global campaign against terrorism. The Canadian contingent includes four frigates, one destroyer, one supply ship, Sea King helicopters, two Aurora maritime patrol aircraft, three Hercules aircraft, one Airbus and a contingent from the special operations unit Joint Task Force Two. Some 750 troops are to be on the ground in Afghanistan by mid-February.

Canada and the United States share the longest undefended border in the world. It stretches 5061 kilometres on land and 3832 kilometres over water. Every year the border is crossed by some 200 million people and 20 million commercial shipments. Trucks transport about 80 percent of all goods that cross the border.

Among the national security measures announced since September 11 is the allocation of \$79 million to buy advanced explosives detection systems and related state-of-the-art electronic security capabilities for screening carry-on and checked baggage at Canadian airports. The money will be used as well to hire more airport security inspectors, buy X-ray machines for better screening of goods, and purchase fingerprint card conversion technology.

CANADA'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM

Use the Web site of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade as your gateway to all the information you need on Canada's campaign against international terrorism:

<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>