

in the plans for studies and educational activity, and in the advocacy of political action. And probably enough time — if we stop occasionally and listen for the tolling of that distant bell.

At the entrance to the council room in the Palais des Nations in Geneva, where the Committee on Disarmament holds its sessions, there is engraved on the wall a statement by Lord Robert Cecil in the days of the League of Nations: "The nations of

the world must disarm — or perish".

About the same time in 1929, as Prime Minister Trudeau recalled to the delegates at the special session, Salvador de Madariaga, representative of Republican Spain and an eloquent advocate of disarmament, was saying disarmament was "really a problem of the organization of the world community". Mr Trudeau added: "In the larger sense of the word, history has proved him right."

### *Carter at mid-term*

## North American *détente*— but the hard issues remain

By Stephen Handelman

Probably nothing is so infuriating to Canadian nationalists as the present state of relations between the United States and Canada. As President Jimmy Carter reaches his mid-term mark, a comfortable feeling of good will has submerged the fractious quarrelling of recent years. "Maturity" is the latest code-word diplomats use to describe the relation. But, more than anything else, the word seems to reflect a decision not to tackle too much at once on the bargaining table while each side wrestles with its own domestic problems.

Like flowers opening in the warmth of the sun, Canadians have responded to the friendly Carter Administration with a relaxed approach to bilateral problems. The resulting breathing space has created an apparent *détente* in North America. In a period that has seen recurring economic troubles and a relapse into Cold War jitters, the two nations appear to have drawn closer together for comfort against the storm.

Is the calm misleading? The \$60 billion in two-way trade continues to make each country the other's largest trading partner. But Canada's lagging economy continues to be plagued by a mounting balance-of-payments deficit with its neighbour to the south. Both countries have reaffirmed their common defence of principles, ranging from freer world trade

to the strengthening of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Yet the quiet back-room bargaining in international forums, ranging from the Geneva Multilateral Trade Negotiations to law-of-the-sea talks, has been intense — and occasionally bitter.

There has been no lack of effort to keep things running smoothly. High-level visitors to Canada in the last 12 months have included Vice-President Walter Mondale (who can boast of having ancestors in Ontario, and recently concluded: "Right now, I feel good about relations with Canada"), U.S. Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal and Health Education and Welfare Secretary Joseph Califano. The U.S. Embassy in Ottawa, once a diplomatic backwater, is now filled with purposeful, upward-striving diplomats.

The External Affairs Department has responded in kind. A separate Bureau of United States Affairs, with a staff of 14, has been created out of the former Western Hemisphere Division. A \$15,000

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