

### **U.S. Bicentennial**

Another special project was Canadian participation in the commemoration of the United States Bicentennial. The object was to show Canadian understanding and regard for American achievements, and to heighten American appreciation of the distinctive character of Canada's history, society, culture and national goals. To conform with American policy on the celebration, activities were planned on a regional or local basis rather than a national one. Canadian missions in the United States participated in events within the communities where they were located. Other Bicentennial projects ranged from grants and visiting professorships in support of Canadian studies at Yale and Johns Hopkins Universities to the production of a booklet on Canada and the American Revolution for use in selected U.S. secondary schools. Tours of Canadian art exhibits and entertainment projects featuring performers from across Canada and representing the nation's diversified ethnic makeup had the aim of illustrating to Americans both the similarities and differences of their Canadian neighbours. The photographic album *Between Friends/Entre Amis* was the focal-point of Canada's salute to the United States as a nation; over 13,000 copies were presented to prominent American individuals and to public institutions. The album also formed the basis for a photographic exhibit viewed by over 300,000 people in Chicago, New York and Atlanta. A series of parade-show salutes was staged in conjunction with events sponsored by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Philadelphia. Twin postage stamps honouring Benjamin Franklin as the first Postmaster-General of the British colonies in North America were unveiled in Philadelphia by the Postmasters-General of Canada and the United States.

### **International sports**

A program of international sports liaison has been designed to promote the interests of Canadian sports bodies in international arenas by liaison with, and assistance to, those bodies

and by co-operation with Canada's Ministry of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport. The Department assisted a number of Canadian teams in 1976 with their foreign travel arrangements and promoted sports exchanges with a number of countries. For example, it was involved in the visit of the University of Toronto hockey team to China under a Canada-PRC sports-exchange program.

### **Olympic Games**

In July 1972, an External Affairs officer, Mr. C. O. Roger Rousseau, was lent to the Montreal Organizing Committee for the 1976 Olympic Games (COJO) to serve as Commissioner-General for the Games and President of the Organizing Committee.

Because of its responsibility for Canada's foreign relations, and since it had establishments abroad, the Department was involved in the Olympics in a number of ways. Canadian missions distributed information about them as part of the general Canadian information program abroad. As the Games drew nearer, the scope and tempo of this program increased to meet the growing demand. Departmental co-operation with COJO included exhibitions in a number of key countries. Canadian heads of mission presented sets of Olympic coins to heads of state and other persons of international prominence. The attractions of the Olympic stamp program were widely promoted.

Arrangements were made, in co-operation with COJO and municipal and provincial authorities, to meet the heavy protocol obligations imposed by the attendance of distinguished foreigners at the Games. The thousands of visitors from abroad imposed heavy demands on consular and visa staff. Consultation and pre-planning with interested departments and agencies, as well as with COJO, made possible the smooth entry of the many foreign visitors who attended the Games and the many athletes who took part in them.

The Olympics caused an increase of nearly one-third in the telegraphic traffic of the Department of External Affairs and in the use of its facilities to ensure secure movement