

JOINT CANADA - UNITED STATES INSTITUTIONS1. The Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group

This autonomous, non-governmental group was established in 1958 to provide a forum in which Canadian Parliamentarians and United States Congressmen could exchange views on matters of common concern to their countries. The Group consists of 24 Parliamentarians from each country with the Canada section being headed by the Speakers of the House of Commons and of the Senate and with the United States section being led by a Senator and a Representative. The host country provides the chairman of the meetings which take place once a year with the site alternating between Canada and the United States. The Group divides into a Defence and Security Committee and a Trade and Economic Affairs Committee and discussions are held in camera and off-the-record. A joint communiqué is issued at the close of each meeting outlining in a general way the course of the discussions.

2. Canada-U.S.A. Ministerial Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs

This Committee was established in 1953 by an exchange of notes which provided that the Canadian members would be the "Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Ministers of Finance, Trade and Commerce and either the Minister of Agriculture or the Minister of Fisheries, as appropriate" and for the United States of America "the Secretaries of State, the Treasury, Agriculture and Commerce, together with such other officials of Cabinet rank as either Government may designate from time to time, as the need arises." The notes further provided that the Committee's functions were to be:

- "(1) To consider matters affecting the harmonious economic relations between the two countries;
- (2) In particular, to exchange information and views on matters which might adversely affect the high level of mutually profitable trade which has been built up;
- (3) To report to the respective Governments on such discussions in order that consideration may be given to measures deemed appropriate and necessary to improve economic relations and to encourage the flow of trade;"

The most recent of the 12 meetings held to date, took place in June 1969. They alternate between Canada and the United States.

3. The Canada-United States Ministerial Committee on Joint Defence

The purposes and composition of this Committee are set out in the Exchange of Notes of September 1958, by which the Committee was established, as follows:

- "A) That there shall be established a Canada-United States Committee on Joint Defence to consist
 - For Canada, of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Minister of National Defence and the Minister of Finance;
 - and
 - For the United States, of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defence and the Secretary of the Treasury
 together with such other appropriate Cabinet Members as either Government may designate from time to time as the need arises;
- B) That the Committee's function shall be:
 - 1) To consult periodically on any matters affecting the joint defence of Canada and the United States;
 - 2) In particular, to exchange information and views at the Ministerial level on problems that may arise, with a view to strengthening further the close and intimate co-operation between the two Governments on joint defence matters;