

countries in these two regions are prime candidates for accession to the NAFTA which in turn would create a dynamic amenable to pursuing Canadian economic interests within the free trade area and beyond.

- Third, this additional shift in focus requires, to be fully effective, greater coordination of the various instruments of Canadian economic diplomacy. NAFTA accession is part of this process. But other elements should come into play:
 - a) Poverty alleviation in and economic cooperation with the Americas and the Pacific Rim require greater recognition in Canada's overseas development assistance (ODA) programmes (these regions currently account for about 35% of Canada's bilateral ODA disbursements), with Africa, the Middle East and south Asia receiving considerably less than their present disproportionate share of approximately 65%.³⁷
 - b) Canada should, moreover, actively pursue environmental partnerships with selected countries in Latin America and the Pacific Rim, both because such cooperation has considerable merit in its own terms (e.g., Brazil, with respect to forestry practices and global warming), and because it would reinforce trade and trade policy relationships that are becoming increasingly important to Canada's economic well-being.
 - c) Trade development and economic relations resources (financing and staffing abroad) as well as the deployment of ministerial visits should more closely reflect the emerging importance of the Pacific Rim and Latin America, and the relative loosening of ties with Europe. We should assign any new or redeployable resources that may become available to regions outside Europe where there is more promising ground for coalition building in support of specific, increasingly economic Canadian objectives.

³⁷ Bilateral assistance includes direct government-to-government assistance and Canada Fund. It does not include food aid, emergency relief, EDC section 31 financing, CIDA INC programmes, and cooperation delivered through non-governmental channels. These latter components would tend to increase the proportion of total ODA going to Africa in practice. Recent adjustments to reflect last autumn's Economic Statement do not affect this pattern appreciably.