

(h) Fostering of Bilateral Relations

Only certain aspects of the fostering of bilateral relations can be addressed because of the difficulty in defining precisely what is meant by "fostering". The recommended approach is twofold. First, information would have to be collected on roughly how much time is spent by U.N. officers, both at headquarters and at the Missions, in dealing with delegations specifically on bilateral relations. In order to gather the data, operational categories for dealing with delegations will have to be specified. The aim of this part of the study is to get an indication of the current effort in this area.

The second step is to try to impute the effects of this effort. This will be done by interviewing U.N. Affairs officers, other government officials who have some experience and interest in this area (e.g., CIDA, ITC, etc.) and perhaps some university professors and other recognized experts in the field. Persons interviewed will be asked for their impressions of any concrete impact that U.N. Affairs efforts have had or could have on fostering bilateral relations. The results will likely be very subjective, but nonetheless will provide some insight into the significance of this aspect of the U.N. Affairs role, both as it is and as it might be. The study should conclude whether or not more time should be spent on bilateral relations, and how.

(i) Canada's Image at the U.N.

The issue of how to enhance Canada's image at the U.N. is of concern both to the government and to the U.N. Affairs program. The recommended approach for addressing this issue is twofold. The first step is a set of interviews with U.N. Affairs offices, other External Affairs officers with relevant experience, outside experts from the CIIA and the Parliamentary Centre for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and university professors. Persons interviewed will be asked for their impressions on what is Canada's image at the U.N., why it is so, and in what way Canadian policies or the actions of the U.N. Affairs officers, particularly at the Missions, may have contributed to this.

The second part of the approach is to analyse data on how often Canada has been invited to be a member of various U.N. Committees or affiliated organizations. A similar analysis will be carried out on how often