

Canada continued to provide considerable development assistance to the ASEAN region, particularly to Indonesia and Thailand, where the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) concentrates many of its resources. In addition, since 1983 there have been annual meetings of the Joint Co-operation Committee (JCC), established under the Canada-ASEAN Economic Co-operation Agreement, which have focused on matters such as transfer of technology, human resources development and assistance to ASEAN in the areas of forestry, fisheries and agriculture. In September 1984, the JCC meeting was held in Manila. Increasingly, attention is being focused on the importance of enhancing two-way trade and investment.

In March 1985, the Canadian Committee of the Pacific Basin Economic Council sponsored the Fourth Pacific Rim Opportunities Conference in Toronto.

Canadian exports to ASEAN in 1984 reached \$795 million, an increase of 18 per cent over 1983, and imports reached \$675 million, an increase of 43 per cent. Of the 1984 exports and imports, fabricated materials or manufactured goods accounted for 73 per cent and 64 per cent respectively.

Australia and New Zealand

Canada's close bilateral relationships with Australia and New Zealand were highlighted by official and ministerial visits, continued close consultation and co-operation in bilateral and multilateral forums and a dramatic surge in Canadian exports to both countries.

The annual Canada-Australia Bilateral Policy Consultations were held in September in Ottawa, and addressed a wide range of bilateral and multilateral issues, of interest politically, economically and commercially. In addition to visits by the Australian Ministers of Communication, Defence Support and Primary Industry, Prime Minister Hawke of Australia visited Canada in March 1985 to address the National Economic Conference in Ottawa. Prime Minister Muldoon of New Zealand visited Vancouver in May 1984 to participate in the seventeenth annual meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council.

The Department's vigorous trade development efforts continued. Canadian exports to Australia grew a remarkable 41 per cent in 1984 to \$617 million while exports to New Zealand surged 54 per cent over 1983 to \$189 million. While principal export items were sulphur, newsprint and potassium chloride, both countries provided important markets for capital goods and other fully manufactured products, including computers, telephone and telecommunications equipment.

Against this background of strong export growth, there were significant developments in the service sector. Notably, a new bilateral treaty on air services was concluded in November with New Zealand, which provides for a direct air link between Canada and New Zealand for the first time in 16 years. It is expected that the agreement will considerably enhance the growing tourism traffic between the two countries. In Australia, continuing liberalization of the financial service sector led to the granting of 16 full banking licenses to banks with partial or total foreign ownership, including one to the Royal Bank of Canada. As well, Canada's interest and activities in Australia's merchant banking sector continued to expand.

During the year, there was a considerable increase in cultural and academic activities in Australia and New Zealand. In May 1984, the Association for Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand held its second conference at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand, funded in part by External Affairs.

The South Pacific

Papua New Guinea and Fiji remained Canada's most significant, and potentially promising, bilateral trading partners in the South Pacific, although the pattern of Canadian exports, consisting largely of occasional sales of capital goods, communications equipment and aircraft, continues to vary widely from year to year. Within the context of shared membership in the Commonwealth, and as a Pacific nation, Canada continued to show considerable interest in regional developments.

Africa and the Middle East

Events in the Middle East and Africa figured prominently in the Canadian news media in 1984-85. These events were characterized by drought, famine, warfare, violence, racial conflict and terrorism, and Canadian public awareness of and concern about the region rose to new heights as the year progressed.

Canada continued to exercise modest influence in resolving regional conflicts, while a major effort was made to alleviate the consequences of drought and famine in Africa, particularly Ethiopia. In the pursuit of these two objectives, diplomatic activities included several ministerial and high-level visits and discussions where the Canadian government argued for a better, peaceful, more harmonious world.

Canada's nine immigration posts in Africa and the Middle East issued 4 734 immigrant visas in 1984-85. In addition, 553 refugees from the region were admitted to Canada, along with 30 775 visitors.

Fifteen important visitors from Africa and the Middle East came to Canada for familiarization tours during the year. An eight-country trip to Africa by Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal and a five-country North Africa and Middle East tour by Canada's Olympic soccer team were indicative of the ongoing efforts to broaden Canada's image in the region.

Africa

Canada's relationship with Africa continued along established historic themes — the Commonwealth connection, the Francophone community, concern for human rights (particularly in South Africa) and Canada's commitment to development co-operation. However, in 1984, the famine and drought crises in Africa added a new dimension to the partnership. Night after night, Canadians saw on their television screens the unfolding human tragedy which resulted from the drought in Ethiopia and, to a lesser degree, in other regions in Africa.

The famine in Ethiopia and the Sahel region of Africa evoked a wave of humanitarian concern among the Canadian people which resulted in numerous campaigns by public service groups seeking assistance for the victims. Individual Canadians contributed over \$35 million to various aid agencies, while the government matched these funds and added another \$65 million to a Special Fund for Africa; it also