

Many public affairs programs were initiated in the United States in order to ensure that Canada and Canadian issues gain high visibility. The introduction by President Bush of an amendment to the Clean Air Act in Congress, which seeks to cut SO₂ emissions substantially by the year 2000, was a move in the direction favoured by Canada on acid rain control.

Canada's Latin American strategy was approved by Cabinet in October 1989 and implementation was well advanced in the past year. In a historic move, Canada joined the OAS and became more closely linked with Brazil and Mexico. In addition, the Canada-Latin America Forum was launched and Canada hosted the annual meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank. Canada participated in the UN Military Observer Group in Central America, which supervised the demobilization of the Nicaraguan Resistance. As well, Canada forgave \$182 million in overseas development assistance debt to Commonwealth Caribbean countries. Trade opportunities were expanded in Venezuela, Chile and Brazil.

Canada continued to strengthen its close ties with Africa, emphasizing development issues and cooperation in the Commonwealth, La Francophonie

and other international organizations. In contacts with African countries, Canada encouraged regional political and economic cooperation, democratization and respect for human rights.

Vigorous trade promotion activities continued to result in exports to Africa originating from all parts of Canada. Industrial partnership is assuming growing importance as an avenue of trade development. The Francophone Business Forum held in Dakar chose Montreal as the site of its international secretariat.

In July 1989, Canadian athletes participated in the first annual Francophone Games in Morocco.

Canada led Western diplomatic efforts to ensure the delivery of relief supplies to civilians in northern Ethiopia, and the Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry, launched an initiative for a ministerial Statement of Principles on humanitarian relief efforts for the country.

The international drive to end apartheid was one of the major thrusts in Canadian foreign policy in the past year, in the Commonwealth, at the United Nations, and through Canada's extensive programs of assistance for the victims of apartheid.