

In the case of multilateral institutions, the Department continued to facilitate provincial participation in the sessions of the World Health Assembly, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the ILO, UNESCO, and the UN Human Rights Commission, as well as in certain sectorial meetings of the Commonwealth and the OECD. As well, seven provinces took part in the work preparatory to the UN Law of the Sea (LOS) conference and sent advisers to be part of the Canadian delegation to that conference.

As in the past, the provinces participated in the work of the sub-committees of the Joint Co-operation Committee formed under the Framework agreement between Canada and the EC. Provinces also took part in the working groups created by the sub-committees to study specific sectors such as aeronautics, telecommunications, forest products, metals and minerals.

Consultations with provinces were held regarding many of Canada's international economic activities. Provincial participation in international economic meetings was intense, particularly in the Canada-Japan working group on resource-processing and in discussions on various sectorial activities and issues. In May, two provinces joined the Canadian delegation to the Paris meeting of the OECD Inter-ministerial Committee on Scientific and Technological Policy. In August, five provinces took part in the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy in Nairobi and in the preparatory and follow-up meetings organized in connection with it. Provincial representatives also participated on the Canadian negotiating team to the first session of the Canada-United States discussions on acid rain. The Federal-Provincial Trade Relations Committee (FPTRC) was very active in 1981, holding one meeting in Toronto to review the international trading environment, the Canadian import regime and sectorial and bilateral trade issues, and one meeting in St. John's Newfoundland jointly with the Federal-Provincial Export Development Committee to review marketing strategies and programs and issues before the Export Trade Development Committee, composed of members of the private sector.

In immigration matters, the Department continued to facilitate close co-operation between the federal and provincial immigration services at home and abroad.

The first in what will be a series of regular annual federal-provincial meetings on Canada's international cultural relations was held in Ottawa in May 1981. The decision to initiate such annual meetings, which will be a major step towards improving federal-provincial consultation mechanisms in the international cultural field, is one of the results of liaison visits to provincial capitals undertaken by the Department in 1980.

Some progress was made in 1981 in international educational co-operation. A meeting between the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Secretary of State on one hand, and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada on the other, was held in Ottawa, on April 1, 1981. This