

The concerns of the Department in the athletic field are similar to what they are for cultural relations in general - namely, to expose people in other countries to the range, diversity and excellence of Canadian accomplishments; to provide opportunities for Canadian talents to develop and mature through international exposure and competition; and to expose Canadians in general and Canadian athletes in particular to the athletic achievements of other nations. As indicated earlier, the Department of External Affairs works in close cooperation with the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport, the Department of Health and Welfare, Sport Canada, Recreation Canada and the National Sport and Recreation Administrative Centre to ensure that Canada is represented abroad with as much imagination and distinction in this field as possible.

Within the last five years, the Department has participated in the negotiation and signing of memoranda of understanding with Hungary and Cuba, an exchange agreement with Poland and an informal agreement with the People's Republic of China. In addition to participating in the negotiation and signing of diplomatic instruments, the Department performs several other responsibilities in this field. For example, in 1977-78, the Department was instrumental in paving the way for the successful negotiation of the Gleneagles Declaration against apartheid in sport by Commonwealth heads of State, thereby enabling the African nations to compete in the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton. The Department also assisted Team Canada to participate in the World Hockey Championship in Vienna as well as the University of Toronto Blues hockey team to tour China. At the same time, the Department also brought several Chinese players and coaches to Canada for a number of highly valuable and instructive training sessions. Finally, the Department continued to act as a diplomatic adviser and promoter of Canadian athletic organizations planning to compete abroad.

Scientific Relations

Like the athletic field, the scientific field is a highly complex one in Canada, with many governmental and non-governmental agencies sharing responsibilities for Canada's international scientific projections. As revealed earlier, the Ministry of State for Science and Technology, the Science Council, the National Research Council, the universities and numerous scientific and technical institutes play a leading role in helping to make Canada's scientific achievements better known throughout the world. Although a great deal of the international activity in this field takes place directly between these aforementioned institutions and their counterparts abroad, nevertheless, the Department does assume certain responsibilities in this field. In 1977-78, for example, the Department provided some assistance for scientific exchanges between Canada and France as well as for Canadian participation in the International Hydrological Program, the International Geological Program and the United Nations Intergovernmental Program for Co-operation in the field of Scientific and Technological Information.

Youth Relations

Countries such as France and the Federal Republic of Germany have proven conclusively that there are enormous gains to be derived from youth exchanges. Not only do youth exchanges help to sensitize youth to the political, economic and cultural values and realities of other countries, but also there are important spill-over effects when young people who have participated in these exchanges reach