

payments in connection with the Canadian Interests Abroad Program and the World Exhibitions Program.

To provide support for immigration programs, the Computer Assisted Immigration Processing System (CAIPS) was put into operation at sites in the United States, Western Europe and the Far East. CAIPS automates the process of issuing visas to immigrants and visitors to Canada, with substantial improvements in productivity and accuracy.

The Department's property holdings are valued at over \$4 billion. The new \$90 million chancery in Washington, D.C. was completed and the \$200 million Tokyo embassy site is being developed as a joint venture with Japanese partners. The aim of the Department has been to increase Crown ownership in high-rent areas to save significantly in the long term.

Throughout the past year a number of official visits to Canada have taken place. Among these were visits from eight heads of state, five heads of governments and twelve ministers of foreign affairs or foreign trade.

In terms of federal-provincial cooperation, on-going consultation ensures that provincial interests are considered in international relations policies and

that the provinces are kept informed of the Department's position on issues of mutual interest.

In the past year the Foreign Intelligence Bureau continued to provide intelligence to the decision-makers within the Department. By collecting, analyzing and disseminating intelligence, the Bureau ensured that senior managers and developers of policy received timely, relevant and assessed data relating to Canada's international role and the intentions of foreign states.

The foregoing achievements could not have been accomplished without the dedication and hard work of the employees of External Affairs and International Trade Canada. With the sensitivities and complexity of world affairs ever-increasing, and within the context of financial restraint, employees will continue to face and overcome myriad challenges in the course of their duties. The Department looks ahead to the next year with enthusiasm, knowing that the progress made to date will pave the way for tomorrow's success.