

World View

CANADA

Issue 8 • Summer 2000

Canada and the OAS Ten years of Constructive engagement

The OAS General Assembly:
Human security issues top the agenda

Celebration in Windsor:
The host city of the General Assembly
welcomes the Hemisphere

A helping hand in the Americas:
Canadian assistance makes a difference



Canada

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ABOUT CANADA WORLD VIEW

Published quarterly, *Canada World View* provides an overview of current foreign policy issues and Canada's perspective on them. It also updates readers on Canadian initiatives, responses and contributions in the field of international affairs.

OUR COVER

Organization of American States headquarters in Washington, D.C. The inserts show images of Canadian assistance projects in the Americas.

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COMING EVENTS

JUNE

June 1–October 31
Expo 2000
Hanover, Germany

June 4–6
Organization of
American States
General Assembly
Windsor, Ontario

June 25–26
Canada–European Union
Summit
Coimbra, Portugal

June 26–30
United Nations World Summit
for Social Development
Geneva, Switzerland

JULY

July 12–13
G-8 Foreign Ministers'
Meeting
Kyushu, Japan

July 21–23
G-8 Summit
Okinawa, Japan

July 27–29
Association of
Southeast Asian
Nations Foreign Ministers'
Meeting
Bangkok, Thailand

SEPTEMBER

September 6–8
United Nations
Millennium Summit
New York, USA

September 16–18
International Conference on
War-Affected Children
Winnipeg, Manitoba

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Canada AND THE OAS

A VIGOROUS PARTNERSHIP

On January 8, 1990, Canada joined the Organization of American States (OAS) as its 33rd member,

a step up from the Permanent Observer status we had had from 1972. Over the years, we have shown leadership in several areas, including mine action, poverty eradication, the protection of human rights and combatting illicit drugs. On the last topic, in 1999 we initiated a dialogue among foreign ministers to consider the human security implications of the problem.

One of Canada's first initiatives in 1990 was to propose creation of the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy. The proposal was accepted and the Unit now provides support for the strengthening and consolidation of democratic processes and institutions in member states. Its first full-time Executive Co-ordinator was a Canadian, John Graham, as is his successor, Elizabeth Spehar.

After becoming a member, Canada quickly assumed an active role in promoting new thinking on hemispheric security within the Organization. By 1995, the OAS had transformed its three-year-old Special Committee on Hemispheric Security into a Permanent Committee, intensifying its work on issues of nuclear non-proliferation, conventional arms transfers, landmines, confidence- and security-building measures, and conflict prevention.

A strong advocate of civil society participation in the policy development process, Canada has supported increased involvement of non-governmental organizations, women and youth, as well as representatives of the Hemisphere's Indigenous peoples and parliamentarians in hemispheric and OAS affairs. This June in Windsor, civil society is expected to participate on a scale larger than ever before at the annual OAS General Assembly.

Canada is the second-biggest contributor to the OAS, providing approximately 12.4 percent of its Regular Fund (\$13.6 million this year). Through the Canadian International Development Agency, Canada also contributes \$2 million annually to the Voluntary Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, which supports the social, economic and cultural development activities of the Organization. In addition, we contribute \$600 000 per year to the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission.

Canada has promoted fiscal responsibility and renewal within the OAS and its specialized agencies. The aim is to make the inter-American system more relevant, more dynamic and better able to respond collectively to the changing realities of the region.

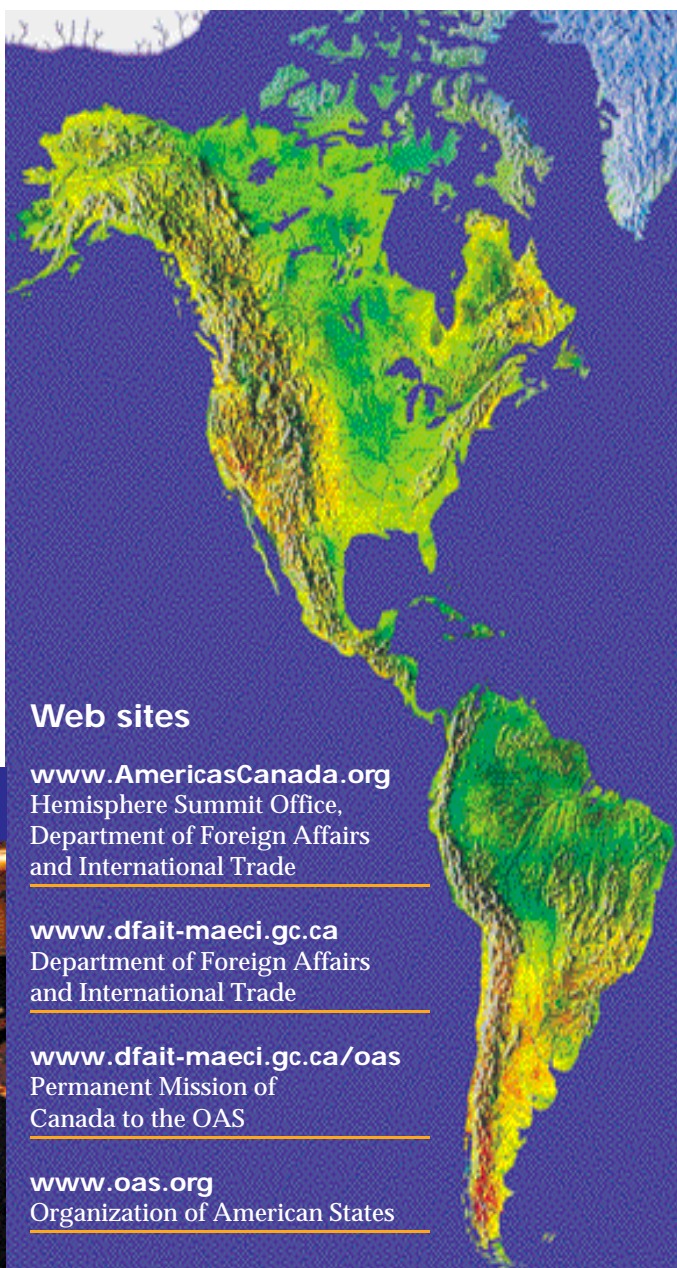


As host of this year's General Assembly and the third Summit of the Americas in Québec City in April 2001, Canada now has an extraordinary opportunity: to shape the hemispheric agenda and continue the vital work of helping to build a better future for all citizens of the Americas. ●



Prime Minister Jean Chrétien at the second Summit of the Americas, Santiago, Chile, April 1998

photo: Jean-Marc Carisse



Web sites

www.AmericasCanada.org
Hemisphere Summit Office,
Department of Foreign Affairs
and International Trade

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca
Department of Foreign Affairs
and International Trade

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/oas
Permanent Mission of
Canada to the OAS

www.oas.org
Organization of American States



Businessman Tom Joy



Fireworks over a Windsor fountain

Windsor

ROLLS OUT THE red carpet

FOR THE OAS

Delegates to the 30th General Assembly of the Organization of American States will notice a special warmth when they arrive in their host city of Windsor, Ontario, this June. It won't be just a foretaste of Canadian summer: greeting them will be a community genuinely delighted to have the visitors in town.

The 350 000 residents of Windsor and Essex County will be doing their utmost to welcome their guests, ease them over unfamiliar hurdles and make them feel at home.

Prominent in mobilizing the volunteer-based effort has been Tom Joy, a Windsor businessman famous in the area for his support of civic causes. Says Joy, "When Herb Gray, the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, called and asked if I would chair a volunteer committee for the conference, I said, 'Mr. Gray I'd be honoured.'"

Fred Sorrell is co-ordinator of the initiative. He says, "We started by listing every visitor's need we could think of. Then we set up committees to deal with each. In no time we assembled a team of

experts from the Windsor area—volunteers all—to chair these committees. The City of Windsor and Mayor Michael Hurst responded wonderfully, assigning a delegate to each committee." From this framework grew an army of 800 volunteers, providing everything from technical help for visiting journalists to hospitality services for delegates.

One committee is organizing entertainment and activities in the parkland along the Detroit River. On the bill will be live jazz, rhythm and blues, salsa and Motown performances plus a concert by the Windsor Symphony Orchestra, sponsored by the Windsor Casino. The welcome to the OAS, says Joy, will be the focal point of a celebration of Windsor, complete with fireworks, music festivals and a nighttime flotilla of boats down the Detroit River. A corps of roaming volunteers fluent in Portuguese, Spanish, English and French will help people find their way around.

Supporting the voluntary effort is funding of \$300 000. Of this amount, \$200 000 comes from the City of Windsor and \$100 000 from Tom Joy himself. He

says, "Hosting the OAS General Assembly is a great opportunity for our young people to get ready for the future by learning about the Americas." It will in fact be an educational experience: a special Web site will tell students all about the Americas, and children will contribute to an art display on human rights and a 34-piece mural with an Americas theme.

Deputy Prime Minister Gray notes that host communities do not usually become so involved in diplomatic meetings. He thinks Windsor's preparations for the Assembly highlight an advantage linked to community size: "Prime Minister Chrétien and Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy believe that international conferences shouldn't always be in larger cities or capitals. A place like Windsor can be an excellent choice."

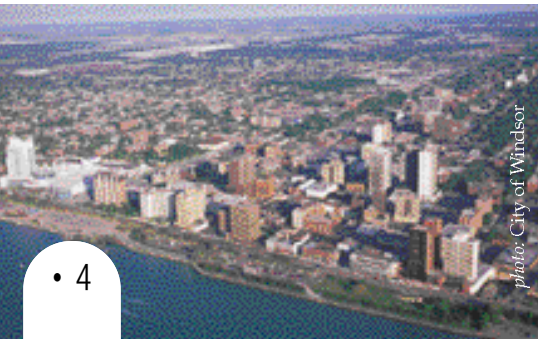
Tom Joy agrees: "To bigger metropolitan centres, something like this is just one more convention. To us it's a lifetime event."

As Member of Parliament for Windsor West, Herb Gray can think of other reasons why his home town is a good place in which to build hemispheric unity: "It's a major crossroads of trade and transportation between Canada and the United States, an example of good neighbourliness in every sense—personal as well as economic. In fact, Windsor exemplifies what the OAS is all about." ●—

Celebrations include a full program of cultural events.



City of Windsor, Ontario



Nick Coghlan (left, on top of jeep) accompanies a threatened union leader (to his right). Seated below is Canadian Peace Brigades International volunteer Luis van Isschott.

To most of us, the work of diplomats is safe and predictable: attending meetings and conferences, or going to receptions. But no one could predict the dangerous circumstances our diplomats sometimes encounter abroad. Here are two examples, both from Latin America.

Ninety-nine days to Christmas

In September 1999, kidnappers snatched seven Albertans and one American working for United Pipeline Systems of Edmonton in the Ecuadorian Amazon jungle. The captors demanded a US\$20 million ransom for the release of their prisoners. From then until close to Christmas, the seven-person Canadian Embassy team in Quito concentrated almost exclusively on the crisis.

Ambassador John Kneale worked tirelessly throughout the ordeal. He passed news to United, kept in touch with Foreign Affairs headquarters in Ottawa and held countless meetings with Ecuadorian ministers and senior officials, right up to the President, Jamil Mahuad. The Ambassador repeatedly emphasized one crucial point: Canada wanted the army and police to make the safety of the hostages their top priority.

After 99 days, the kidnappers released their prisoners. The Embassy flew them



Released hostages at a press conference in Edmonton, December 22, 1999

Diplomacy in action

Canadian diplomats on the

front line

to a secret location in Quito and, a few days later, saw them off to Edmonton in a United Pipeline aircraft. They arrived home just in time for Christmas.

According to unconfirmed media reports, United paid a US\$3.5 million ransom for the workers' release. John Kneale has no comment but he stresses that the Embassy had no part in negotiations if any indeed took place. "Canada does not negotiate with kidnappers," he says. "All we wanted was to ensure the safety of the hostages." Mission accomplished!

"Accompaniment" in Colombia

Outside the larger cities, Colombia is the scene of a continuing, bloody three-way conflict involving the government, Marxist guerrillas and right-wing paramilitary groups. It is all too easy to become caught in the middle, and death may be the punishment for any community, group or individual that guerrillas or paras decide is sympathetic to another side.

There is virtually no way to prevent every killing. Still, diplomats in the embassies of Bogotá know they have a degree of leverage. The guerrillas and the paramilitaries prefer not to complicate things for themselves by attacking foreign

diplomats and UN representatives, or individuals and groups that enjoy the overt support of the international community.

This is why Nicholas Coghlan, First Secretary at the Canadian Embassy, spends a week or two each month journeying outside Bogotá to villages in the combat zones. There he meets as visibly as possible with mayors, community leaders, police, and foreign and local NGOs. The strategy is so common in Colombia that it even has a name: *acompañamiento*, meaning accompaniment.

"Accompaniment simply reminds the bad guys that the outside world is watching," says Coghlan. "Sometimes that's enough."

Sometimes it isn't. A week after Coghlan and a UN representative visited a village on the Atrato River in remote jungle country, 500 guerillas stormed in and slaughtered 30 people, including women and children, the police chief and his entire force of 21. "Sadly, our visit didn't stop the massacre," says Coghlan. "It may have postponed it. It may have given some people time to leave. We don't know. We simply do what we can do and we will continue doing it. Hopefully, one day this carnage will stop and people will not fear for their lives any more." ●—

"Accompaniment simply reminds the bad guys that the outside world is watching," says Nick Coghlan. "Sometimes that's enough."



Ambassador John Kneale



Nick Coghlan (on horseback) rides to the Community of Peace in La Unión, Uraba province.

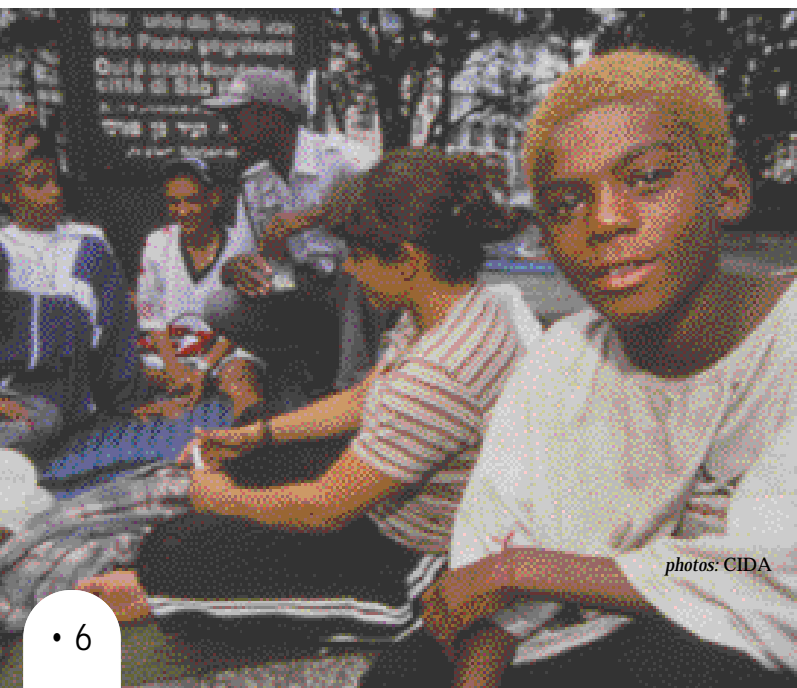
A helping hand in the Americas: Canadian assistance makes a difference

For many years, Canada has helped countries in the Americas with their development needs. The primary channels for this assistance are the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

CIDA is the main agency through which Canada's assistance flows to developing countries. In 1998–99, CIDA's assistance totalled \$1.81 billion. Of that amount, \$303.3 million went to programs in Latin America and the Caribbean. CIDA's programs cover four key areas: basic education; health and nutrition; HIV/AIDS; and child protection. In each area, there is a strong focus on gender equality.

IDRC was founded in 1970 to help Third World countries build solid platforms of knowledge for their development plans, so that they can find practical solutions to their problems. To fulfil this mandate, IDRC gives support for research. Since 1971, the Centre has provided a total of \$368.3 million to 2078 research projects in the Americas. In 1998–99, some 20.2 percent of the support given by IDRC went to this region, compared with 39.6 percent to Africa and 14.9 percent to Asia.

IDRC has recently published a plan mapping out world needs and its assistance priorities over the next five years. According to the plan, IDRC-supported research will focus on the building of social and economic equity, management of environment and natural resources, and the use of information and communications technologies in development. The Centre also plans to increase its support for research on building peace and managing conflict.



photos: CIDA

Following are a few of the many examples of Canadian assistance.

Bolivia and Nicaragua: building negotiating skills

Will the launch of mining operations in a remote community be a blessing or a curse? It depends, in large part, on the conditions that the community negotiates up front. Enter CoDevelopment Canada (CoDev), a Vancouver-based NGO that specializes in helping small communities negotiate. With IDRC funding, CoDev answered a request for assistance from several Latin American mining communities and, in consultation with NGOs in the region, it developed a decision-making framework for community leaders. CoDev is also helping Indigenous communities in Nicaragua and Bolivia acquire the skills they need to negotiate on equal terms, on issues ranging from environmental impacts to social and economic benefits.

Guatemala: postwar rebuilding

IDRC and other donors funded the establishment of the War-Torn Society Project (WSP), under which UN and other organizations help devastated countries rebuild. In Guatemala, days after the government and guerillas made peace, WSP launched a rebuilding program. Among the goals: modernizing and strengthening state institutions, supporting social and economic development, enhancing public safety, and improving administration of the justice system.

Peru: human rights monitoring

With CIDA funding, Peru has established a national ombudsman's office to serve as a human rights watchdog. The office upholds the rights of prison inmates: it monitors their treatment, provides legal support and applies for pardons for people serving time for crimes they did not commit (so far, over 460 prisoners have won release). In response to growing demand, CIDA has announced that it will provide longer-term funding for the ombudsman's office.



Brazil: studying droughts and floods

In northeastern Brazil, searing droughts often bring job losses, water shortages, and (when the rains finally come) floods and mudslides. Since 1994, IDRC has funded a project under which the University of Manitoba is helping Brazilian universities build a multidisciplinary research network that supports drought action by local, regional and national governments. Issues under study include desertification, soil erosion and the impact of out-migration.

Bolivia: putting the salt of life on the table

CIDA is helping Bolivia eradicate goitre, a cruelly disfiguring disease caused by a lack of iodine in the diet. The prevention is simple: a few grains of iodized salt in food. With its partners UNICEF, the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization, CIDA is sponsoring a project to increase production of iodized salt, put it within reach of the poor and encourage its use. Canadian funding has enabled Bolivia to boost its production of iodized salt.

Cleaner air for the Hemisphere

Since 1996, CIDA has funded a project supporting Latin American countries' efforts to reduce air pollution caused by lead. Part of a wider World Bank program, the project helps governments and industry organize the phasing out of leaded gasoline. It also promotes harmonization of fuel specifications throughout the Hemisphere. The project has brought major environmental and health benefits, plus cheaper and more efficient fuel production.

Peru: economic and social research

CIDA and IDRC are supplying \$4.15 million in funding support to the Economic and Social Research Consortium (CIES), a think-tank that backs economic and social research in Peru. Studies so far have been conducted on fiscal and monetary policy. CIES is now gearing up for a research study of poverty in Peru. ●—

Visit the CIDA and IDRC Web sites:
www.acdi-cida.gc.ca
www.idrc.ca



Young Canadians reach out to the Americas

Over the next few months, a group of young Canadians will start six-month internships in the Americas through the Youth International Internship Program (YIIP) of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT).

This year, the following Canadian organizations will receive funding from DFAIT to manage internships in the region: the Canadian Association for Community Living; the Canadian Centre on Minority Affairs; the Canadian Foundation for the Americas; the Centre Bolivar de Montréal; the Corporation Idéaux-Travail; Educ-Inter; and the Hispanic Development Council.

The aim is to enhance interns' international skills, provide assistance, and apply Canadian expertise and values to various issues. For example, the Canadian Centre on Minority Affairs will focus on business, trade, small enterprise development and various social issues in the Caribbean. The Centre Bolivar de Montréal, Corporation Idéaux-Travail, and Educ-Inter will focus on business and export development for Canadian companies, and on private-sector placements in Mexico, Panama and South America.

Again this year, the Canadian Foundation for the Americas will send some young people as interns to the OAS, with others going to the Pan American Health Organization and the Inter-American Development Bank. The Hispanic Development Council will strengthen relationships with community organizations in Central America, Cuba, Paraguay and Peru; it will also provide international experience to Canadian youth of Hispanic or Latin American backgrounds. The Canadian Association for Community Living will offer internships in Panama and Nicaragua in the area of human rights issues affecting persons with disabilities.

Élaine St-Onge did her internship at the Inter-American Children's Institute in Montevideo, an OAS agency. She says, "Doing an internship in children's rights gave me a chance to enhance my knowledge of the theme of child soldiers and also to get to know Uruguay better. This internship allowed me to vastly improve my Spanish. It was not always easy, but it was a very enriching experience." She is now working on children's issues in Montréal.

For more information on the Youth International Internship Program, visit its Web site (www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/interns) or call 1-800-559-2888 (toll-free from anywhere in Canada).

Human security:

A priority at the OAS General Assembly

A focus of Canada's foreign policy agenda for the past three years has been the concept of human security, which emphasizes protecting people from threats to their rights, their safety or even their lives.

At the OAS General Assembly to be hosted by Canada in Windsor, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will lead a dialogue session on human security. Discussions among the 34 foreign ministers expected to attend will focus on four broad areas: (1) strengthening democracy and human rights; (2) fighting the trade in illicit drugs and related criminal activities; (3) lessening the vulnerability of children; and (4) involving other players.



A pedestrian passes by a group of police in Quito, Ecuador.

Democracy and human rights

In April 1998, at the Summit of the Americas in Santiago, Chile, heads of state and government described "the strengthening of democracy, justice and human rights" as a "vital hemispheric priority." Despite tremendous progress in the previous decade—today, all governments in the Americas are democratically elected, save Cuba's—the leaders recognized that much remains to be done. For example, democracy is not simply a matter of regular elections; it also requires an informed electorate, a free press and inclusion of marginalized groups, such as Indigenous peoples, minorities, women and youth. Together, the nations of the Hemisphere can and should do more to strengthen and consolidate the institutions underpinning democratic development and human rights protection. Among other things, they should work to ensure adequate human and financial resources for the inter-American human rights system.

In addition, ministers should examine how institutions—such as the Inter-American Commission of Women, the Inter-American Children's Institute, the Inter-American Indian Institute and the OAS Justice Studies Centre of the Americas—can better promote inclusion and full participation in the economic, political, social and cultural life of our societies. Information technology and the Internet are among the instruments that could be used to increase those institutions' effectiveness.

Protecting children

Children in the Hemisphere continue to suffer as a result of past and current conflict. Some OAS member countries have extensive experience in coping with the challenges of helping war-affected children. Ministers will be asked to adopt a resolution calling for all countries of the Americas to work on measures for protecting war-affected children in the Hemisphere, and for supporting their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Equally serious is the plight of street children. Canada will call for stronger support for the Inter-American Children's Institute as it works to develop and co-ordinate policies and programs for safeguarding the human security of children. In particular, information technology could be a powerful force for turning isolated local and national programs into a truly hemispheric effort. At the General Assembly, two pilot projects will be announced involving local organizations based in various countries in the Americas. One of the projects deals with connectivity (connecting communities together) and substance abuse; the other is concerned with information technology and street children.

photos: CANAPRESS



Chilean soldiers guard seven tonnes of cocaine found in a Panamanian ship in January 2000. This was the second-largest drug seizure in the world.

Fighting the drug trade and related criminal activities

The drug trade is one of the gravest threats facing citizens and societies in the Americas. It deprives national economies of billions of dollars annually, destroys families, fuels corruption, increases general levels of criminality and violence, supports an illegal trade in small arms, helps sustain guerilla and paramilitary forces, and provokes tensions between states. The drug problem affects us all: one way or another, every citizen of the Hemisphere bears the human, economic and social costs of dealing with illicit trafficking and consumption.

In Windsor, ministers will examine ways of strengthening the Americas' collective response to the drug problem. Among other things, they will be invited to maintain the momentum created by the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism, a tool for monitoring the implementation of national and regional strategies to combat illicit drugs. Evaluations have now started and a report will be presented at next year's Summit of the Americas in Québec City.

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is a growing problem in the Americas. Ministers will discuss how to increase collective efforts aimed at curbing this trade. They will examine how to build further on the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials—the first such international agreement in the world. Canada signed the Convention in 1997.

Involving other players

Canada is convinced that human security is not the sole responsibility of governments but must involve other interested parties, including NGOs, the corporate sector and elected representatives. We want the OAS to continue encouraging these groups' active participation in priority issues on the inter-American agenda. One area in which partnership and co-operation could be most effective is corporate social responsibility.

The OAS has already adopted guidelines for civil society participation. Last February, in a speech to a session of the OAS Permanent Council in Washington, Mr. Axworthy said, "Including civil society partners is essential to making our hemispheric institutions more relevant to the needs of our citizens. Non-governmental actors—with their viewpoints, their special expertise, their resources—can play an important role in realizing common goals and ensuring the future vitality of our Organization." In Windsor, Canada expects to welcome the largest civil society contingent ever seen at an OAS General Assembly. ●—

For more information, see Web site addresses on page 3.



Mural in memory of children killed in Pereira, Colombia

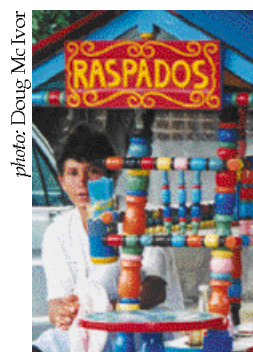
NGO in the field

Change for Children:

An Edmonton group helps vulnerable kids and their communities

A small non-governmental organization from Alberta called Change for Children (CFC) is making a big difference in the lives of threatened children in Latin America.

CFC's focus is on children and the communities they live in. These are youngsters born in the shadow of war and living in a wasteland of poverty. They work the streets by day and night, staying alive by picking garbage, running errands, selling things, sweeping market stalls, cleaning car windows at intersections, or sometimes by prostitution.



Child street vendor in Managua



The Lights of the Future (Nicaraguan street youth band) during CFC-sponsored tour of Alberta

photo: Lorraine Swift



Ron Berezan (centre) with youth from projects in Managua

To complement its work in Latin America and the Philippines, CFC has programs to educate Canadians about the underlying causes of poverty in developing countries. Co-ordinating these is Ron Berezan.

CFC makes efforts to involve young Canadians, especially Albertans, in its work. In some projects, for instance, young people from Alberta and Nicaragua explore social themes through the visual arts, music, dance or theatre. Recently the organization sponsored travel exchanges for groups of Canadian and Nicaraguan young people. CFC also runs a school twinning program, publishes a newsletter (*Building Bridges*,

circulation 3000), and stages workshops and presentations. And now it has a Web site (www.changeforchildren.org).

In Latin America and the Philippines, CFC collaborates with partner institutions in what Berezan calls "partnerships for peace." He explains, "These include advocacy programs for street kids and children affected by war and violence, women's projects, support for agricultural co-operatives, and projects to get small businesses started."

Berezan sees the relationships thus built as mutually respectful and enriching: "We get to know these communities. We promote awareness in Canada of their needs, raise funds for them, support the development of project proposals and invite them to Canada to speak about their work."

"We focus on communities

because kids are parts of communities.

They are at risk because something is wrong in their communities.

They are poor because their families are poor."

photo: Ron Berezan



Children in front of a mural in Esteli, Nicaragua

In Alagoas, Brazil, CFC works with Zumbi dos Palmares Centre for the Defence of the Rights of Children. The aim is to educate the public about children's rights, bring to light cases of violence against children and provide legal support for children charged with crimes. The project also pressures the Brazilian government to enforce its Statute on Children and Adolescents, educate children and youth about their rights, protect adolescent workers, and end child labour.

In Managua, Nicaragua, CFC works with street kids in co-operation with the Institute of Human Promotion. "These kids are quite vulnerable," says Berezan. "The Institute has safe houses where they can go for meals, get resources for survival, find information about their legal rights and learn how to protect themselves. The Institute also offers them the chance to be children again through music, dance, visual arts and other forms of play. They develop self-esteem. For a while they are not just kids picking through garbage; they are artists and performers."

The common element in all the projects is community development. "We focus on communities because kids are parts of communities," says Berezan. "They are at risk because something is wrong in their communities. They are poor because their families are poor." ●

PROFILE OF A DIPLOMAT

Jean Désy

Diplomat par excellence

Born in Montréal in 1893, Jean Désy studied law at Université Laval in Québec City and the Sorbonne in Paris. From 1919 to 1925 he taught law and history at the Université de Montréal, and Canadian history at the Sorbonne.

When O.D. Skelton became Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs in 1925, one of his first tasks was to fill the Counsellor's position he had just vacated. His replacement would also be the first recruit to Canada's new foreign service. With his passion for quality, Skelton set very high standards for the candidates. Of them all, only Jean Désy qualified.

Désy was first posted to Paris in 1928. Over the next 11 years, he served on or headed Canadian delegations to the League of Nations, Imperial conferences and many international meetings.

In January 1939, he became Canada's first Ambassador to Belgium and the Netherlands. In May 1940, he was in the path of German troops invading Belgium. Amid the dangers of the blitzkrieg, Désy steered his staff and their families to safety. Afterwards he wrote Skelton, "I am greatly relieved to have concluded this adventure without loss, or injury, to any of my personnel. . . . All through this odyssey, I have never failed to keep in mind what you have told me should be the first consideration, namely the safety of the personnel."

Leaving Europe, Désy was appointed Canada's first envoy to Brazil in June 1941. When the post was elevated to an embassy in late 1943, he became Canada's first career diplomat to serve as an ambassador. He stayed for six years in Brazil, making a strong impression. He became famous for his "all-Canada dinners" featuring Canadian cheese, salmon, vegetables, beef, tourtière and, of course, maple syrup.

In September 1947, Désy was named Canada's first Minister (later Ambassador) to Italy. He toured schools, distributed Canadian aid, and visited places where Canadian soldiers had fallen in battle and were buried. Désy promoted reconciliation in a spirit of generosity.

In January 1952, on secondment, he became Director General of the CBC's International Service (later Radio Canada International) in Montréal. The voice of Canada abroad, the Service was then facing criticism for supposedly being "too pinko [*sic*] on communists." Changing the tone was among the tasks awaiting Désy, described in a contemporary newspaper report as "one of External Affairs' more dexterous hot-potato jugglers." He succeeded, making the Service "frank and critical of the evils of communism to the point of combativeness."

**Never forget to
be a diplomat,
not 12 but
24 hours a day.**

—Jean Désy



Désy (right) at a meeting with Prime Minister Mackenzie King, External Affairs Minister Louis St. Laurent and officials from the Department, ca. 1946



Désy (centre) and External Affairs officials with Under-Secretary O.D. Skelton (right) en route to London for Imperial conference, 1926

In 1954, Désy was named Canada's Ambassador to France, a prestigious posting where he served until retirement in 1957.

During his tenure, the Canadian Embassy in Paris enjoyed unprecedented influence.

He elevated diplomacy to an art. "Never forget to be a diplomat, not 12 but 24 hours a day," he often said. Starting with the language, he would learn everything about the country where he was posted, while championing Canadian interests.

Married to Corrine Boucher, a father of two, Jean Désy died in Paris in 1960. Like his friend Lester B. Pearson and others of their time, he had set a standard unsurpassed for service to his country. ●



Marc Lortie of DFAIT talks with Grand Chief Phil Fontaine.

Listening to Canadians: Shaping policy toward the Americas



Consuelo Cutzel of Guatemala at Winnipeg roundtable

"People need to be the focus of the hemispheric agenda,"

says George Haynal, DFAIT Assistant Deputy Minister for the Americas. That's what Canadians have said at nine roundtables organized by the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CCFPD) over the last year.

In meetings from Halifax to Victoria, Canadians have called for attention to human rights, democracy and Indigenous peoples, and for participation of poor and marginalized communities in hemispheric affairs.

George Haynal is the senior Canadian government official responsible for the June General Assembly of the Organization of American States in Windsor. For the event, he says that policy makers have developed a human security theme closely reflecting the foreign policy goals of Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy and the public input from the roundtables.

Here are the main points:

- Democracy is fundamental to every thing and needs to be strengthened in some countries.
- Human rights protection is essential in building viable democracies.
- Democracy in the region must include women, children, Indigenous peoples and small states.
- Inequalities within societies need attention.
- Citizens throughout the Americas need access to services such as education, health and the digital world of new technologies.

Among participants in the Winnipeg roundtable on "Canada, Indigenous Peoples and the Hemisphere" were Assembly of First Nations Grand Chief Phil Fontaine, Métis representatives and other Indigenous leaders from Mexico,

Guatemala and Panama. They met with Marc Lortie, the Prime Minister's Special Representative for the Québec Summit of the Americas in 2001.

Themes of other roundtables were good governance, education, civil society and democracy. In Ottawa in April, roundtables were held on two topics: "Look Ahead to Windsor" and "The OAS and Small Arms." Joining in the discussions were Ryerson University Professor Wendy Cukier, Juan Ronderas from the Nathanson Centre for the Study of Organized Crime and Corruption at York University in Toronto, Inspector Alan Goodall from the RCMP's Canadian Firearms Registry, and Melissa MacLean of the Canadian Council for International Co-operation.

Experts and academics also wrote several CCFPD policy papers on Canada's role in the Americas. For example, in "Le Canada et la ZLEA : Réflexion sur les stratégies" [Canada and the Free Trade Area of the Americas: Consideration of Strategies], Joël Monfil and Martin Roy of Université Laval recommended that trade not be the only priority for Canada in the Americas.

Policy developments include the broadening engagement of Indigenous peoples in the Americas and a review of the Inter-American Indian Institute, plus attention to the small arms trade. These and a wide range of issues will be placed before OAS foreign ministers when they meet in Windsor to address what Mr. Axworthy has called "the darker side of globalization."

A partnership is thus shaping the agenda for Windsor and identifying issues for Canadian foreign policy attention. It is a key to Canada's success as host to the Hemisphere this year and next, and it can be a model for others.

"We ignore civil society at our peril," Mr. Axworthy told an OAS meeting in Washington on February 11, 2000. The concerns he expresses and those of Canadians have much in common because they emerge from the same Canadian values that have fuelled discussion at the Americas roundtables. This is Americas policy development, Canadian-style. ●

NATIONS

IN • THE • NEWS

Canada-Chile: New strength to a long-standing relationship

Next year, Canada and Chile will celebrate 60 years of diplomatic relations. The first Canadian representative to Santiago was W.F.A. Turgeon, a former Chief Justice of Saskatchewan, who was accredited to both Argentina and Chile on September 28, 1941.

He had his residence, however, in Buenos Aires, and found it too strenuous to travel often to Santiago. Accordingly, in 1942 Canada established a separate mission in Chile headed by Warwick Chipman, a Montréal lawyer and professor of law at McGill University. Chile reciprocated the same year.

Our two nations have many things in common. Like Canada, Chile has a small population (15 million) spread over an immense distance; the country stretches more than 4000 kilometres from north to south but is only 100 to 200 kilometres in width. Both nations have strong resource-based industries,



Team Canada trade mission on its stop in Santiago, January 1998

such as mining, forestry, agriculture and fishing. Again like Canada, Chile has developed modern telecommunications systems to serve the needs of its dispersed population. And limited markets at home have forced the two countries to look outward to sustain their economies.

Chile has one of the most stable and open economies in Latin America, and it returned to democracy in 1990. These factors prompted the Government of Canada to identify Chile as one of its 10 priority markets. Total two-way trade stood at \$357 million in 1992; since then, it has doubled to a high of \$776 million in 1999. Canadian investments have increased sharply; after the United States, Canada is now the largest foreign investor in Chile, with \$8 billion in current and planned investments.

Chile coastline



Newly elected Chilean President Ricardo Lagos

are now engaged in negotiations toward the establishment of a proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas by 2005.

Our cultural and academic relations have also been growing steadily, with the impetus of two bilateral agreements: one on co-operation in education, and the other on cultural co-operation and exchanges. A Canadian Education Centre has opened in Santiago to promote Canadian educational institutions and assist Chileans interested in pursuing their studies in Canada.

In the international arena, Canada and Chile work closely together on a range of issues at the UN, the OAS and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC). Chile hosted the second Summit of the Americas in April 1998, and Canada will host the third Summit next year in Québec City.

Now long gone are the dark days of the Pinochet regime (1973-90), when Canada took in hundreds of Chilean political refugees. Today, Chile is one of our key partners in the Americas and the future looks particularly promising for our bilateral relationship. Ricardo Lagos was elected President on January 16; he intends to strengthen Chile's democracy and market orientation.

For Canada, it is good news that we can count on a stable partner in Latin America. ●



Downtown Santiago, Chile



For more information, visit the CCFPD Web site (www.cfp-pec.gc.ca), or contact the Centre by telephone at (613) 944-4150/-0391, by fax at (613) 944-0687 or by letter at the following address: Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2.

Culture

Canadian artists take the Americas by storm

Canada's political and economic relations with the Americas are expanding steadily—and so are our cultural relations, particularly with Mexico and the United States.

An example is the Canada/Mexico Creative Artists Program, operated under the International Cultural Relations Program of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Leading Canadian artists spend six to eight weeks in Mexico, where they work in collaboration with their Mexican colleagues. In this time they learn about new developments in their field, exchange ideas, consult with master teachers and create new works.

For professional Canadian artists active in the performing arts, visual and media arts, literature, film, video and television, the Department provides assistance so that they can travel abroad. This has helped many artists perform in Mexico, including the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Robert Lepage's theatre company Ex Machina, rock bands, dance troupes and classical musicians. A very popular event was the exhibit of paintings by the Group of Seven last year in Mexico City.

In the United States, Canada's Consulate General in New York actively promotes Canadian talent through its Upper North Side program.

Its most recent success was "Blame Canada!"—the first all-Canadian film festival ever staged by the Film Society of Lincoln Center. Organized by the Consulate, "Blame Canada!" featured 31 films and documentaries, including Atom Egoyan's *Calendar*, Peter Mettler's *Picture of Light*, Claude Jutra's *Mon oncle Antoine* and Catherine Annau's *Just Watch Me: Trudeau and the '70s Generation*, to name just a few of the works shown.

The festival caught the attention of all the media—even the venerable *New York Times*, which said, "*Just Watch Me*, like almost everything else in the series, is evidence that Canada's bland cultural image is undeserved."

But New York is only one stop for our artists. In June, Chicago welcomes virtuoso violinist Jasper Wood, as well as musician and filmmaker Michael Snow; Juno and Grammy award winner Diana Krall will tour several cities before a planned tour of Latin America; and several of Robert Lepage's plays are scheduled to be performed throughout the United States.

Elsewhere in the Americas, the Buenos Aires Independent Film Festival will feature Canadian movies; the Cirque



Alberto Manguel

photo: Random House

Éloize has performed in Bogotá; pianist Irene Wong is to appear at the Festival Bravissimo in Guatemala; and pianist Minna Re Shin will perform in Mexico in the fall.

Argentinian-born Canadian writer Alberto Manguel says, "Culture is what identifies a nation. This is your passport to the rest of the world." Manguel adds that what brings Canadian and Latin American cultures closer together is their "common fear of American cultural domination. It forces us to be more creative to survive and to assert ourselves." Whatever the cause, Canadian culture shows greater diversity and dynamism than ever before. And with our ever-closer ties with hemispheric neighbours, Canada's culture is bound to leave a strong imprint on the Americas. ●—



Members of Robert Lepage's theatre company Ex Machina, performing in *The Seven Streams* of the River Ota

photo: CANAPRESS

To learn more about DFAIT's Cultural Program, visit our Web site: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/arts

NewsBRIEFS

CANADA'S MONTH AT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

In April, Canada held the presidency of the United Nations Security Council for the second time in its current two-year term as a member. Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy chaired several meetings at which he advanced Canada's human security agenda. Here are some of the highlights.



photo: CANAPRESS

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy at the UN Security Council

AFGHANISTAN

On April 7, Afghanistan was the topic of discussion at a Council meeting proposed by Canada and chaired by Mr. Axworthy. The purpose was to address the humanitarian and human rights crisis in that country—particularly the plight of women and girls, who are denied access to education and basic health care.

At Canada's suggestion, the Council issued a statement urging all Afghan parties to ensure full and unhindered access to international humanitarian assistance for anyone in need. The statement also called for resumption of negotiations toward a political settlement, with the goal of establishing a broad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative government.

On the same day, with International Co-operation Minister Maria Minna, Mr. Axworthy announced a \$300 000 contribution to the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Assistance to Afghanistan. Chief beneficiaries of the assistance will be women and girls.

SANCTIONS POLICY

On April 17, Mr. Axworthy announced the creation of a Security Council working group on sanctions policy, with a mandate to develop recommendations on how to make

UN sanctions more effective. The working group will explore ways of targeting sanctions and avoiding negative humanitarian impacts. It will report its findings to the Council in November.

On the same day, *The Sanctions Decade*—a Canadian-sponsored study on sanctions, by the International Peace Academy—was released by Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Minister Axworthy. The study recommends concrete measures to make sanctions "smarter," more humane and more capable of achieving their potential as a tool for multilateral diplomacy.

Mr. Axworthy also announced funding for two more studies on specific aspects of sanctions. In addition, he said that a conference of experts would be convened to begin development of a legal regime to govern the use of sanctions, including standardized policy guidelines and operational principles.

ANGOLA SANCTIONS

On April 18, Minister Axworthy announced the adoption of a Council resolution on Angola sanctions. This acted on key recommendations of the UN Expert Panel's March 2000 report on alleged violations of Council measures imposed against the Angolan rebel group, UNITA. The resolution will strengthen efforts

to stop the illicit trade in diamonds, petroleum and arms, while reinforcing financial and other restrictions on rebel leaders.

Further, the Minister announced \$300 000 in funding for specific projects supporting the implementation of the Security Council resolution. These include: support for sanctions monitoring; the holding of a conference of experts to devise a system for increasing transparency in the control of diamonds, from their place of origin to the markets; and convening a workshop in Canada to explore ways of restricting the manufacture and trade of small arms, with a focus on Angola. The conflict in that country has been going on for more than a decade.

PROTECTING CIVILIANS IN ARMED CONFLICT

On April 19, a Council meeting chaired by Mr. Axworthy adopted a resolution on the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

The resolution re-affirmed the UN's strong condemnation of the deliberate targeting of civilians in situations of armed conflict. It contained specific provisions for enhancing the physical protection of civilians caught in the crossfire of conflict, including: unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance; preventive action on behalf of civilians at risk; explicit attention to the protection of civilians in peace-keeping mandates, especially women, children and vulnerable groups; and greater responsiveness to threats of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Canada originally placed the issue of protection of civilians in armed conflict before the Council during its previous presidency in February 1999. The outcome was a report by the Secretary-General, tabled the following September; this recommended concrete ways of protecting civilians, who now account for more than 80 percent of casualties in modern conflict. ●—

For more information on these issues and other subjects discussed during Canada's Council presidency, visit the Department's Web site at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca and click on "News Releases."

Kevin O'Shea, head of Public Affairs, Canadian Consulate General, New York, at the launch of the "Blame Canada!" film festival

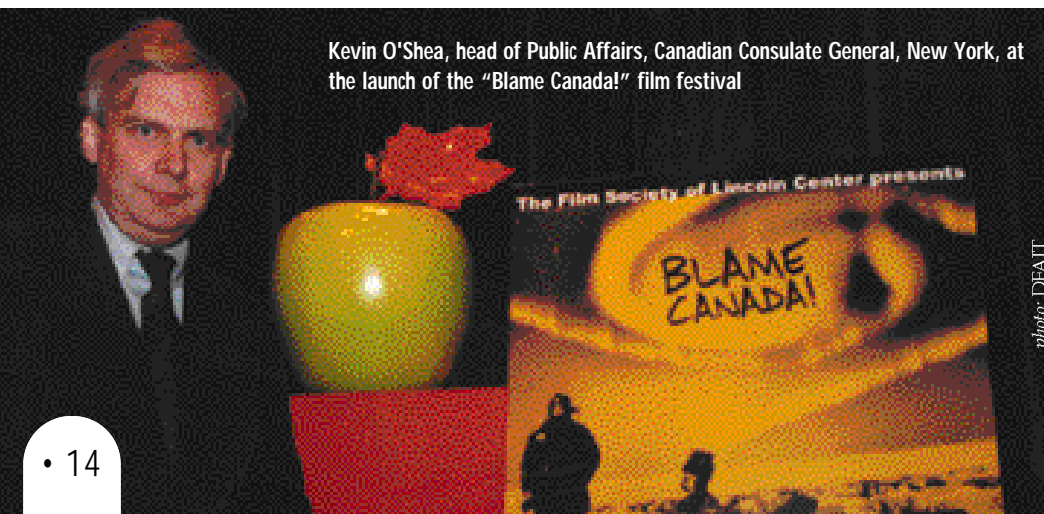


photo: DFAIT

History at your fingertips

Now the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has a history page on its Web site. Called "The Department in History," the page contains a wealth of information on the Department's past and how Canadian foreign policy has developed since 1867.

For anyone interested in learning about the rich, unique history of Canada's foreign policy and international relations, the new page is a must. The Web address is:

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/hist



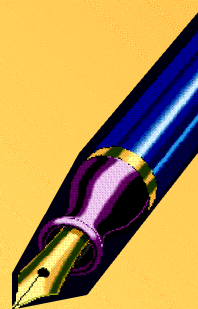
Readers' Corner

Recently, *Canada World View* held focus groups across the country. Among other things, you told us you would like to see a column where you could express your comments, suggestions, criticisms and ideas about Canada's foreign policy and about this magazine. We're happy to do as you asked and to bring you this column, **your** column. Please send your letters to:

Readers' Corner, *Canada World View*
Communications Services Division (BCS)
Department of Foreign Affairs and
International Trade
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

You can also e-mail us at:
magazine@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Readers' Corner



Where **Canada** meets the world



Please come and visit the Lester B. Pearson Building, home of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, at 125 Sussex Drive in Ottawa, Ontario. Free guided tours are available until November 10.

For more information or to book a tour:

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DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .

• Canadian ties with the Americas go back a long way. One of the very first Canadian trade missions abroad took place even before Confederation: in 1866, the governments of Canada (i.e., the future provinces of Ontario and Quebec), Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island sponsored a trade commission that visited the Caribbean and Brazil.

• The first Canadian diplomatic mission in Latin America was established in Rio de Janeiro in September 1941 when career diplomat Jean Désy presented his credentials as Canadian Minister (later Ambassador) to Brazil. Also in the 1940s, Canada opened missions in Argentina and Chile (1941), Mexico and Peru (1944), and Cuba (1945). Further Canadian diplomatic expansion in Latin America took place only gradually in later decades.

• If the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas becomes a reality, it would be the world's largest free trade bloc, with 800 million people and a gross domestic product in excess of \$10.6 trillion. Negotiations are under way for the conclusion of a treaty by 2005.

• The Organization of American States is the world's oldest regional organization. It originated in 1890 as the International Union of American Republics. In 1910, this became the Pan American Union. In April 1948, 21 countries joined together to establish the modern OAS. The Organization is made up of 35 sovereign states. (The current government of Cuba has been suspended since 1962.) Canada joined as a Permanent Observer in 1972 and became a member on January 8, 1990. Some 45 countries plus the European Union have Permanent Observer status with the OAS.

• Approximately 1.5 million Canadians visited Latin America and the Caribbean last year (13.5 million visited the United States). In the same year, Canada welcomed 400 000 visitors from the region and 15 million Americans.

• When travelling in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, tune in to Radio Canada International (RCI). On short-wave, it broadcasts Canadian news and other information programs in English, French and Spanish. For information on schedules and frequencies, consult RCI's Web site: www.rcinet.ca

In our NEXT ISSUE

Issue 9 • Fall 2000

Scheduled for late August, our next issue will focus on the upcoming United Nations Millennium Summit, expected to be the largest-ever gathering of heads of state and government. We will look at the future of the UN—the cornerstone of Canada's foreign policy since 1945—and how Canada intends to help redefine it for a new millennium. ●

