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Communiqué

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Glue that binds Canada-US-UK relationship still strong, says study

The glue that binds the relationship among Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom is still strong, despite the end of the Cold War and changing patterns of world trade and investment, concludes a study released today by the British-North American Committee (BNAC). Among the factors that account for the strength of the relationship, the study notes, are shared common values and history, strong trade and investment links, and a common language.

The study, *Keeping the Peace: The Outlook for Transatlantic Relationships*, was written by Richard Maidment, head of the politics department of The Open University in the United Kingdom. The BNAC is a group of leading business persons, labor representatives, and professionals from Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom. The committee is sponsored in Canada by the C.D. Howe Institute.

To find out whether younger Canadians, Americans, and Britons, on whom the future of the transatlantic relationship depends, have the same positive feelings toward each other as do older generations, the BNAC commissioned two Internet surveys among 20-to-35-year-olds in the three countries. The results from 8,000 respondents, which Maidment summarizes and discusses, indicate that younger people value the traditionally close relationship among the three countries as much as their parents do. More than 75 percent of respondents in each country cited the people in the other two countries as those to whom they felt closest and for whom they were most likely to make sacrifices.

The Internet surveys also found that, although some aspects of the traditional relationship, such as mutual security concerns and educational exchanges, might be weakening and others, such as trade and investment links, were sources of potential disputes, an increasingly common popular culture now seems to be providing what the report calls “an especially encouraging source of new energy” for continuing close ties among the three countries.

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The British-North American Committee was established in 1969 to study and discuss the broad range of economic factors affecting the relationships among Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Its members are drawn from business, labor, agriculture, and professional leaders who are involved in relations among the three countries. The North American Chairman of the Committee is Robert D. Rogers, President and Chief Executive Officer, Texas Industries, Inc., Dallas.

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Keeping the Peace: The Outlook for Transatlantic Relationships, British-North American Committee 42, by Richard Maidment (British-North American Committee, Toronto, Washington, DC, and London, March 1999). 48 pp.; \$12.95. ISBN 0-902594-56-7.

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