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# THE Actuary

## International update

by Allan D. Affleck

Today an increasing number of Society of Actuaries members are either employed by companies with international links or work for clients with international business activities. Clearly what happens abroad is of growing importance to our employers and clients of international business. Even for companies without international insurance operations, the need for access to international investments is clear. The changing international scene, including the push toward a common market in Europe, the political changes in Eastern Europe, the rapid growth of strong Asian economies, and the Hong Kong 1997 situation, creates the need to understand the related business implications, both here and abroad. This applies to investment, insurance, and employee benefits.

The Society is responding to these trends by providing more international educational opportunities, and many of our current SOA activities are related to the growing involvement our members have in international business. Here is a brief review.

### Annual meeting

This year's annual meeting theme will be "International Opportunity." Our keynote speaker is James Schlesinger, currently with Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies, and formerly a Cabinet member under Presidents Nixon and Carter. Sprinkled throughout the meeting, to be held in Orlando, are sessions on international insurance and employee benefits plans designed to give actuaries the

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## Society, CIA maintain healthy relationship

by Peter C. Hirst

First I'd like to thank the Society for inviting me to write this article for *The Actuary*. This is a particularly auspicious time to do this, since the Canadian Institute of Actuaries (CIA) celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year. We have grown significantly as a profession over these 25 years and, while we still have a way to go, we have reason to celebrate many achievements.

We also have reason to thank many who have helped us along the way, not the least of these being the Society of Actuaries. We enjoy a close working relationship with the Society, which I believe has been mutually beneficial. We were proud to join with the Society (along with the Casualty Actuarial Society, the Conference of Actuaries and the Academy), as co-hosts of the Washington Centennial Celebration in June 1989.

Our annual meeting this year, to be held in Quebec City, will in part be a celebration of our 25th Anniversary. However, while we will reminisce and recognize the sound leadership we

have had in the past, the main theme of the meeting will be to look forward. The centerpiece for discussion will be a report on the future of the CIA prepared by a task force chaired by Dick Crawford. Earlier this year, the CIA Executive Committee approved the release and distribution of this document as a discussion piece without endorsing or rejecting any of its recommendations or proposals.

We already had some preliminary discussion of this report at our March general meeting, and in-depth discussions will commence at our annual meeting. I understand reports will be printed in future editions of *The Actuary* covering these discussions, so I will just touch on two aspects of the report that may most immediately interest Society members.

These two areas are summarized in the first two recommendations of the report. The first deals with one of the main themes in the report. It is: "that the CIA adopt a new statement of purpose which gives prece-

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