

within the OECD of national policies for the control of chemicals. The effects of chemical substances on human health and the environment and the international harmonization of such control measures constitute a high environmental priority for Canada.

Within the ECE, Canada is actively participating in research and information-sharing activities in accordance with the provisions of the *Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution* signed by most ECE members, including Canada, in 1979. This convention is the first international agreement designed to reduce acid rain caused by emissions of pollutants that cross national borders.

In the field of international environmental law, Canada spearheaded an initiative within UNEP that resulted in a decision to convene a senior level meeting on environmental law. This meeting, scheduled for September 1981, is intended to identify gaps in, and stimulate further development of, environmental law at global and regional levels. A consultative meeting was hosted by Canada in November 1980 as part of the preparatory process for the September 1981 meeting.

Canada continued to participate actively in CCMS activities. The Minister of the Environment attended an informal CCMS ministerial level meeting in November 1980, where ministers reviewed national environmental positions on issues of current interest.

### Science policy

The international scientific activities of the federal government are aimed primarily at helping to ensure that Canada attains a position among the leaders of the industrialized and technologically advanced countries. This objective is pursued by various means, including exchanges of information, visits of technical experts and joint research projects in collaboration with other nations—activities promoted by the Department of External Affairs in co-operation with the Ministry of State for Science and Technology and other science-based departments and agencies.

The year witnessed continued efforts to enhance Canada's domestic research and development activity and to find ways of complementing domestic programs with international action. Progress was achieved in promoting joint activities with the EC and with a number of countries including the USA, France, Japan and Germany, with some of which Canada held major meetings. In Arctic sciences, progress was achieved with the USA but not with the USSR. Indeed, the invasion of Afghanistan and the growing repression of Soviet dissident scientists resulted in a suspension of Canada-USSR scientific exchanges. On the multilateral front, although the latter events adversely affected the scientific forum of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), Canada participated actively and contributed to its relative success. Canada was also active in a variety of other organizations such as the OECD Committee on Science and Technology Policy, the NATO Science Committee, the Senior Advisers on Science and Technology of the ECE, the International

Institute for Applied Systems Analysis and the Commonwealth Science Council.

Canada's relations with the Third World were another major concern. A number of science-related interagency agreements were concluded with developing countries, including two agreements with China. Canada also participated actively in the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development (ICSTD) established to continue the work initiated by the UN Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTED) held in 1979. Canada tabled several proposals at this conference for a practical program of work that ICSTD has taken under consideration.

### Air transport

The main development in an active year in Canadian civil aviation was the conclusion of a revised bilateral air agreement with the United Kingdom. In return for substantial operating rights for Air Canada beyond the UK, British Airways became the first transatlantic carrier to gain access to Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver. The same agreement also allowed a British carrier from Hong Kong to double track the transpacific service operated by CP Air in return for the retention and expansion of some additional rights for that carrier.

In these negotiations as well as in preliminary consultations with the Federal Republic of Germany, Romania and Mexico, the Canadian side was headed by the Chief Air Negotiator in the Department of External Affairs who drew on personnel from the department, from Transport Canada and from the Canadian Transport Commission in setting up negotiating teams. These teams also included airline representatives.

The department was active in a number of informal contacts with the USA, Scandinavian countries, Portugal and India that may lead to future negotiations. It also participated in the resolution of differences that have arisen with some of its bilateral partners as a result of different regulatory policies. Finally, the department contributed extensively to a number of interdepartmental reviews currently under way that will shape Canadian international air policy in the '80s.

These activities took place against a background of deteriorating results for international air carriers. A levelling-off of passenger traffic growth, declining profitability due to soaring fuel prices and over-capacity in some of the major markets made 1980 one of the worst years, world-wide, in commercial aviation profitability. Although Canadian international scheduled airlines continued to be generally profitable, they were not immune to these negative factors. In a period of limited economic growth, changes in the allocation of airport arrival and departure slots and higher landing fees are likely to become increasingly severe operating constraints. While the principal Canadian charter operator did well, the share of charter operations in the tourism market continued to decline.

These problems were the subject of considerable examination and debate in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The second Air Transport Conference took place in February, and the triennial Assembly—the twenty-third—