

thirty-eighth session of the UN General Assembly, the Prime Minister participated in the "mini-summit" organized by the Prime Minister of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, as leader of the non-aligned movement. Canada's intention was to show that it was prepared to support any initiatives designed to revive the North-South dialogue on a more informal and realistic basis.

Canada took important development assistance initiatives during the past year. It undertook to increase development assistance so as to reach, by 1990, the goal of 0.7 per cent of gross national product set by the United Nations. It also announced the establishment of a new Aid-Trade Fund. On the multilateral level, it sought to ensure that such organizations as the World Bank would have the resources necessary to meet the needs of the developing countries. Canada was disappointed when the major donors were unable to agree on a replenishment of the International Development Association fund above \$9 billion. Finally, Canada responded to the emergency situation in Africa by granting food aid of \$91.5 million and humanitarian aid of \$14 million. A 20 per cent increase in the volume of that assistance was planned for next year.

The Commonwealth

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in New Delhi in November 1983 provided a unique forum for the Prime Minister to place his peace initiative before a large cross-section of international leaders, mainly of the developing world. As a result of their support the Goa Declaration on International Security was issued as a separate statement in the New Delhi communiqué.

A Commonwealth study on the international economic situation recommending institutional financial reform, "Towards a New Bretton Woods", and prepared under the chairmanship of Prof. G. Helleiner of the University of Toronto, was also considered by the heads of government, who subsequently established a Commonwealth consultative group to map out a plan for action and report to Commonwealth finance ministers at their conference in Toronto in September 1984.

The momentum of Commonwealth ministerial meetings throughout the year (complementing others at more technical levels) testified to their continuing importance as the "cement" of the contemporary Commonwealth. Though the emphasis tended to be toward development, all members benefit greatly from the exchanges of experience and information, and the personal contacts. In many cases they constitute a valuable preparation for larger international gatherings within the UN system such as those of the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund.

Principal meetings in which Canada participated in 1983-84 included health ministers, Geneva, May, and Ottawa, September; employment and labour ministers, Geneva, May; law ministers, Hong Kong; finance ministers, Port-of-Spain and Toronto; education ministers, Nicosia. Ottawa is host in September 1984 for the thirteenth meeting of the Commonwealth Science Council. Senior Officials are to convene in Barbados in December.

La Francophonie

Among the main events that occurred in 1983, mention should be made of the Ministerial Conference on Scientific Research and Higher Learning held in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast, in October 1983, under the auspices of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (ACTC). The participants adopted a declaration on the role science and technology must play in meeting essential needs, particularly for food, health and education. The conference also adopted a plan to direct the ACTC scientific and technical co-operation program in the next few years. Canada made several proposals that were accepted by the conference.

The ACTC held its ninth General Conference in Paris in December of 1983. Its decisions included the admission of Egypt as an associate state. There are now 30 member states, seven associate states and two participating governments (Quebec and New Brunswick) in the Agency.

Two other important conferences held during the year were the Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers at Port-Louis, Mauritius, and the Conference of Education Ministers of Francophone Countries, in Kinshasa, Zaire.

As in the past, Canada provided significant support to French-speaking non-government organizations.

Canada also took the initiative in establishing an inter-ministerial committee for international linguistic co-operation to co-ordinate the government's efforts to provide for exchanges and co-operation with the international French-speaking community. The committee was instrumental in formulating government policy on two specific projects — Canadian participation in the Montreal and Brussels symposiums on the use of French as a language of science and Canadian participation in Expo-langues in Paris.

Environmental questions

Arising from an earlier Canadian initiative, the Governing Council of the UN Environment Program (UNEP) approved by consensus a resolution (subsequently passed by the UN General Assembly in late 1983) creating an independent commission to assess environmental perspectives to the year 2000 and beyond. The UN Secretary-General appointed former Norwegian Prime Minister Dr. Gro Brundtland to chair the Commission, which was named the World Commission on Environment and Development. Maurice Strong of Canada, who had been the first executive director of UNEP, was named a commissioner, and another Canadian, Jim MacNeill was appointed secretary-general.

Canada continued efforts to combat acid rain, the acid deposition formed by industrial atmospheric pollutants which is destroying forests and lake life. At the UN Economic Commission for Europe, Canada participated in the creation of the Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution Convention, which more than 30 nations have ratified, pledging themselves to take action to restrict these acid-rain-causing pollutants. Several countries went further and committed themselves to specific target figures. Canada invited ministers responsible for the environment from nine European countries willing to undertake to reduce sulphuric emissions by at least 30 per cent (based on 1980 levels) by no later than 1993, to meet in Ottawa in March 1984, where they issued a call for other nations to make similar commitments. Prior to the Ottawa