

PREPCOM DISCUSSION

The primary Canadian objectives were:

- The participation in UNCED of entities outside national delegations, including non-governmental organizations, regional organizations and provincial representatives;
- The Canadian initiative for 'sector days' at UNCED, and our interest in its acceptance by Brazil as host and other delegations, forms an important element in our strategy to ensure broad public participation in UNCED.

The session opened with statements by Maurice Strong, Brazil and the Chair on the organization of the Conference. The Brazilian Government expects official delegates to begin arriving on the last weekend of May for final pre-Conference consultations. The Conference will open on 1 June 92 with the morning of the first day given over to organizational matters. General debate will follow, and continue for three days. A break occurs on 5 June 1992 (the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Stockholm Conference and World Environmental Day). General debate will re-open on 8 June 1992 and be scheduled to end on 10 June 1992 (i.e., 40 hours of general debate). Nothing specific was said about a programme for heads of state/government, although Brazil said it continued to review options for a special event. The Brazilians welcomed the participation of non-governmental and inter-governmental institutions in UNCED.

A fuller briefing on logistics and organization for both official and NGO participants was given later, and notes on that briefing are attached as Annex 1.

The CANZ intervention introduced the Canadian initiative for 'sector days' and a Canadian produced discussion paper was available for distribution. The Brazilian delegation received an advance copy from us to which they responded most positively. The head of the Brazilian delegation advised that it had been sent by facsimile to the Foreign Ministry.

The general debate concentrated on the fourth session of the PrepCom. Most delegations agreed with the view expressed by Colombia that before dealing with the actual Conference, some attention had to be given to the Fourth session of the Prepcom, as the organization of the current session was less than satisfactory. This was echoed by the Chair who issued a paper containing suggestions and questions for the next session.

Colombia made a number of suggestions, including starting Plenary at the same time as the working groups with Plenary holding only informal meetings except at the beginning and end of the session to deal more effectively with Agenda 21 and the