

delegation expert on limb-and-digit reimplantation and burn-therapy was rescheduled to February 1976.

Within the framework of relations between Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany, the third meeting of the Joint Scientific Commission was held in Ottawa in November. This meeting reviewed the main areas of science and technology in which Canada and the F.R.G. were co-operating: marine science and technology, geophysical sciences, the environment and data-processing.

The highly-productive relation with France continued in 1975. There were more extensive exchanges of research workers between the two countries, involving such areas as agriculture, communications, environment, health and energy. A major mission from Canada visited France in February to discuss information sciences and communications; based on the findings of this mission, discussions will take place between Canada's Department of Communications and France's PTT (Postes, Téléphone et Télégraphe), covering fields such as cablevision, switching and the economic and sociological aspects of communications. A mission from France's Ministère de l'Équipement visited Ottawa in September to discuss collaboration with the Department of Urban Affairs; an agreement was reached, to be signed in February 1976, covering the fields of urban research, land-management policy, new communities and management of public open spaces. Similarly, a French mission visited Canada in the continuing program of technical exchanges on national parks policy.

Within Canada's general exchanges agreement with the Soviet Union, a mixed commission met in Moscow in November to develop the 1976-77 program of science and technology exchanges. This will include exchanges in oceanography and continued joint visits by Soviet and Canadian scientists within the framework of the NRC-U.S.S.R. Academy of Science Agreement.

A mixed commission of Canadian and Belgian representatives met in September in Ottawa to discuss co-operation in science and technology, selecting the following priority themes: applied research and technology, data-processing, health policy, agriculture and information technology.

Canada's embryonic science and technology exchange program with Japan took a long step forward in 1975. In May, Canadian and

Japanese officials met in Tokyo to agree on the first major series of exchanges. This will include joint research and development of off-shore structures, exchanges in environmental studies and co-operative activities in space technology. In addition, an agreement between the NRC and the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science was signed to permit exchanges of scientists and researchers.

The provinces have been kept informed of these activities, and some have participated by attending bilateral meetings or submitting projects of special interest to them.

## Environment

Canada is involved in international activities concerning the environment, chiefly through an active participation in the UN Environment Program (UNEP), the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the multilateral environmental programs of the OECD and NATO.

Canada strongly supported the creation of UNEP, and through membership in the Governing Council continues to play an active role in the organization and in the operations of the Environment Fund the Council administers. Important among the first programs of UNEP has been its support for *Habitat* — the UN Conference on Human Settlements, to be held in Vancouver from May 31 to June 11, 1976. At *Habitat*, nations will meet to exchange ideas generated and experience gained in solving the growing problems of human settlements, and to consider the man-made environment in its physical, social and economic aspects. This will be the first major UN conference to be held in Canada, and the first to employ audio-visual techniques in its proceedings. As host country, Canada has played a leading role in the preparations for *Habitat*.

Canada became a full member of the Economic Commission for Europe in May 1973, at a time when the environmental work of the Commission had been accorded greater importance through the formation of a subsidiary body, the Senior Advisers to the ECE Governments on Environmental Problems. The ECE provides a valuable forum for the exchange of environmental information and experience among industrialized nations with differing political systems. This aspect of the ECE's role might be enhanced as a result of the Final Act of the CSCE.