

There has been an important series of ministerial visits back and forth between Canada and Australia and New Zealand. The Prime Minister has visited these countries, and also India, Ceylon, Japan, Singapore and Indonesia.

The papers suggested that Canada should seek non-regional membership in E.C.A.F.E. This we are postponing until after some questions of a constitutional and organizational nature within E.C.A.F.E. have been resolved by the membership. This is an example of the constraints placed upon freedom of action internationally with which the general paper deals.

United Nations

The foreign policy papers pledge Canada's continuing support for the United Nations as it strives to fulfil its two great functions -- to keep the peace and to improve the conditions of life on earth. Much of the work of the Organization is on-going in character and not less important for this reason. But the United Nations is striking out in new directions as new, or newly-realized, international problems come to the fore. Of particular interest to Canada, with its long shoreline and technologically-advanced society, is the world-wide move towards the control of pollution, the protection of the environment and the enhancement of the quality of life.

The United Nations is responding by the holding of a major conference on the human environment in Stockholm next year, with Maurice Strong as Secretary-General. U.N.E.S.C.O. is in the process of launching an international undertaking of scientific co-operation among member states, to be known as the Man and the Biosphere Project.

Other international bodies to which Canada belongs are active in the field. N.A.T.O. has its Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society. The O.E.C.D. has recently established an Environment Committee to deal with questions of air and water management, pollution by automobiles, industrial pollution and the environmental problems of urban society, among others.

The Economic Commission for Europe is now holding a conference on problems relating to the environment in Prague. Canada is represented. It also plans a seminar on air and water pollution arising in the iron and steel industry in Leningrad in August.

On June 10th I will lead the Canadian delegation to the second ministerial meeting of the I.J.C. on Great Lakes Pollution. The delegation will include representatives of the interested provinces. It is hoped that, at this meeting, agreement can be reached on quality standards for Great Lakes water and that arrangements can be made to enable the I.J.C.