

In its relations with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Canada continued to support the development of the Agency's international safeguards, particularly with regard to CANDU reactors, and also contributed to the Agency's program designed to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Canadian technical experts participated actively in a considerable number of advisory groups, technical committees and international symposia in all fields of nuclear energy (e.g. environmental protection, nuclear safety, health, waste management). By these contributions and by the efforts of Canadian representatives in the Agency's Board of Governors and at its General Conference, Canada continued to demonstrate its support for the IAEA as a major component of the international structure designed to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy while minimizing the risk of nuclear proliferation.

Canadian representatives also played an active role in the work of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE) which was in the second year of its two-year lifespan in 1979. This evaluation, which had been launched in October 1978, had as one of its major objectives the task of carrying out a technical assessment of the proliferation risks associated with the different phases of the nuclear fuel cycle and of suggesting ways by which those risks might be minimized. During 1979, the eight Working Groups of INFCE assessed the information collected earlier and proceeded to prepare their final reports for submission to the Final Plenary Conference of INFCE scheduled for February 1980.

In 1979, preparations were also begun for the Second Review Conference for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) scheduled for August 1980. At that Conference, the proliferation risks associated with the nuclear fuel cycle and the means required to minimize those risks are expected to be one of the major topics of discussion. It is expected that the results of INFCE will have a significant impact on that discussion.

In 1979, Canada continued its efforts in the bilateral field to promote its nuclear trade and non-proliferation objectives. Canada carried out negotiations with Switzerland, Australia and the USA with the goal of establishing a basis for bilateral nuclear cooperation incorporating the requirements of Canada's non-proliferation policy. Also in 1979, Canada continued its dialogue with Japan and the European Community on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and on non-proliferation matters. With regard to the former, Canada pursued its efforts to promote the CANDU reactor while, with regard to the latter, Canada carried out a consultation designed to facilitate agreement on a long-term Nuclear Cooperation Agreement in 1980 following the conclusion of INFCE. (See also Part A, Chapter 1).

Multilateral environmental policy

Canada's purposes in participating in the environmental activities of the UN, the OECD and NATO include: the

enhancement of its capacity for environmental management through exchange of information on policies and technologies with other Western nations; the persistence of joint efforts to resolve environmental problems of an international character; the promotion of the development of international environmental law; and the encouragement of environmentally sound and appropriate development in the Third World. The year 1979 proved to be one of significant progress towards some of these goals.

Canada derived considerable benefit from exchanges of both policy and technical information in NATO's Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society which celebrated its tenth Anniversary in 1979. It was also a strong proponent in the OECD of a broad new program to harmonize the testing and control of toxic substances by member countries. A high-level OECD meeting on this subject, to be chaired by Canada, is scheduled for 1980.

With the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) now serving as the focal point for action to implement the environmental provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, intensive negotiations took place to develop East-West cooperation on such subjects as long-range transport of air pollutants and exchange of information on low-waste and non-waste technologies. These discussions led in 1979 to the signing by most ECE member countries, including Canada, of the first international convention on long-range transboundary air pollution, a milestone in the global goal of reducing acidic precipitation.

Canada continued to provide leadership in the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) with a view to enhancing the coordination and "catalytic" role of that organization within the UN system. It argued for a global environmental consciousness and for the need to resist the growing trend within UNEP to forsake worldwide environmental programs in favour of those affecting only certain regions of the world or segments of mankind.

In all multilateral environmental meetings, Canada stressed the need to give serious study to the environmental implications of evolving energy strategies. This concern was particularly evident at the Tokyo Summit where, at the initiative of Prime Minister Joe Clark, environmental concerns relating to atmospheric pollution were raised in the context of meetings otherwise dominated by energy-related discussions.

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 object 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 cooperation