OVERVIEW
CANADA AND WORLD AFFAIRS IN 1980

PRINCIPAL EVENTS
The world

Conflict in several regions of the world was a source of deep concern in 1980 and into 1981. In the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war added to the instability already caused by events in Iran itself and in Lebanon, and by the continuation of the dispute between Israel and most of its neighbours. Close by, the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan throughout the year exacerbated the inherent instability of Southwest Asia. There was armed conflict with Libyan intervention in Chad. Namibia remained an area of unrest. Vietnam continued to occupy Kampuchea. In El Salvador, growing political violence further unsettled Central American politics. For a good part of the year, the world watched events in Poland with anxiety and hope. Adding to the tensions felt in most parts of the world were persistent and growing economic difficulties, including high interest, inflation and unemployment rates. In January, in one of the happier events of the year, Canada's Ambassador to Tehran, his staff and their families spirited six US embassy staff members out of Iran to safety.

The invasion of Afghanistan underscored the fragility of East-West relations and *détente* and pointed to the absence of any effective mechanism to deal with regional crises outside the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) perimeter. By the end of 1980, there was fear that the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact members would not tolerate the challenge to the Socialist system posed by worker demands in Poland. This made it more difficult to manage the East-West relationship with confidence and with sufficient assurance that each side understood how the other perceived its security and interests.

In a year that began with Afghanistan and ended with Poland but was overshadowed throughout by Iran, the world witnessed more conflict and suffering than peace and caring for humanity. Nevertheless, there were some positive developments: Zimbabwe—the former Rhodesia—became an independent state under a freely elected government, representative of the majority; several hundred thousand Indochinese refugees were admitted to new lands, 60,000 of them to Canada; the world's industrialized nations acknowledged with a sense of urgency the need for new economic arrangements for the survival of North and South; there was orderly change of government or leaders in countries as different as Yugoslavia, Peru, Jamaica and Senegal.

Canada

General elections were held in Canada in February 1980, and a new government headed by the Rt. Hon. Pierre Trudeau took office on March 3. As part of the change of government, the Hon. Mark MacGuigan replaced the Hon. Flora MacDonald as Secretary of State for External Affairs. (In July, the Hon. Pierre De Bané, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, was designated Francophone Affairs Adviser to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.) Soon after taking office, Mr. Trudeau and Mr. MacGuigan indicated that North-South issues would have a high priority in Canada's international relations and both focused on these questions in their subsequent foreign travels. In meetings with leaders of both developed and developing countries, the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs sought to regain lost momentum on North-South matters and to obtain support for key proposals to be discussed, in 1981, at the North-South Summit in Mexico and the Economic Summit in Ottawa.

International human rights questions also represented a significant element in the formulation of Canadian foreign policy in 1980, both in the multilateral field and bilaterally. The Minister, Mark MacGuigan, consulted extensively with human rights leaders from all sectors of Canada.

Canada's external relations in 1980 involved the pursuit, bilaterally and multilaterally, of goals fundamental to national and international well-being: security and economic growth, the promotion of peace and social justice, the management of renewable and non-renewable resources and the protection of the environment. Canada's 118 embassies, high commissions, consulates and honorary consulates provided a range of consular services and, where required, protection to Canadians travelling, working or living abroad. Most of these posts also undertook activities designed to promote a favourable image of Canada through cultural, scientific and sports exchanges and by means of information programs.

CANADA'S SECURITY
Global instability and the search for peace

While conditions in Iran contributed throughout the year to instability and thus to political and economic strains, the consequences of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979 were deeper and more widespread. East-West relations deteriorated; confidence-building efforts designed to underpin *détente* were dealt a severe blow; the Western Alliance was