

Commonwealth technical co-operation

The Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation has been the principal multilateral mechanism for development assistance within the Commonwealth. Its main purpose has been to provide technical assistance, education and training in developing countries.

Canada, which has contributed approximately 40 per cent of the resources of the fund, has regarded it as an effective instrument of development co-operation, and, at the Commonwealth heads-of-government meeting in June, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that Canada would contribute \$6.5 million to the fund in the fiscal year 1977-78 and \$7.8 million in 1978-79.

The Special Commonwealth Fund for Mozambique, created in 1976 with a target of £ 1 million, became operational in 1977 and by September had initiated technical assistance and training projects costing £300,000. The Canadian contribution to this fund in 1977 was \$200,000.

Intellectual property, investment and competition policy

The major activity in the realm of intellectual property in 1977 was the preparation by the World Intellectual Property Organization for revision of the Paris Convention on Industrial Property (Patents). This preparation was to continue throughout 1978, culminating in a diplomatic conference in 1979. In the course of the discussions, special attention was given to the interests of developing countries.

As a member of the UN Commission on Transnational Corporations, Canada was active in the work, begun during the year, to develop a code of conduct for transnational corporations. In addition, Canada participated in the ECOSOC Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices in International Commercial Transactions. Within the OECD framework, there was steady progress in drafting guidelines for multinational enterprises, while the issue of limitations to discriminatory treatment of foreign direct investment was the subject of continuing study.

Canada has also been a member of working groups in both the OECD and UNCTAD that are examining methods for increasing international co-operation among governments in order to deal with restrictive business practices in international commerce.

Export-financing policy

Canada took part in the continuing consultations among industrialized countries for the purpose of lessening unnecessary competition in officially-supported export credits. During 1977, the original seven adherents to the consensus on export credits, including Canada, were joined by the European Community as well as by all other OECD member states except Austria, New Zealand, Iceland and Turkey. This membership enlargement served to make the consensus a more significant tool in preventing credit competition.

Canada was also a participant in the informal Club of Paris, which, in cases of default in the repayment of officially-supported credits, has brought creditor and debtor states together to discuss the most effective means of repayment. During 1977, the Club of Paris met twice with representatives of Zaire; Canada participated in both these meetings.

Canada signed agreements during the year with five countries, designed to provide a procedural framework for solving problems arising in the field of foreign-investment insurance. These brought to 22 the number of agreements of this sort in force between Canada and other countries. At the year's end, discussions on similar agreements were under way with an additional 15 states.