

four legal constituencies, with the Honourable Mme Justice Bertha Wilson from The Supreme Court of Canada, Professor Ronald St. J. Macdonald Q.C. from Dalhousie University, Mr. Leonard H. Legault Q.C. from the Department of External Affairs, and Mr. Yves Fortier Q.C. of Messrs Ogilvy and Renault of Montreal.

The Canadian members will act as arbitrators and will also serve as the Canadian National Group for the International Court of Justice. For this latter function, they will submit nominations to the Secretary-General of the UN for the election of judges to the International Court, the next such elections being in the fall of 1984 (External Affairs communiqué, June 29).

## **STARLAB PROJECT**

### **Canadian Withdrawal**

It was reported in early July that Canada had reached a decision to withdraw from the international Starlab project, which would have created an orbiting telescope (capable of greatly increased pickup and detail capacity) through the international cooperation of the US, Canada and Australia. Canada had until then played a significant role in the project, including the venture's management. Dr. Ian McDiarmid, head of the National Research Council's Canada Centre for Space Science, stated that Canada had "definitely" relinquished its leadership role in the project, and that while there's "a possibility we may buy back into the project at some point in the future, it would be in a much smaller way." He indicated that the prime consideration in determining to withdraw from the project had been the importance placed upon other space-related developments, including the astronaut program (*The Citizen*, July 9).

Dr. Gordon Walker, senior scientific director of the project, expressed his dissatisfaction with the decision to withdraw. He indicated that the Canadian contribution would have been of great benefit to the future of Canadian astronomy. "We have to move out of our village mentality and start treating science with a little more respect and less of the cavalier, high-handed approach," he said. He criticized the Canadian shelving of the Starlab project for the purpose of performing a study (for \$2.5 million) to assess the desirability of joining in the creation of the US space station.

In an interview, Dr. McDiarmid acknowledged that the interdepartmental committee on space (which had the final decision) did tend to place more emphasis on economic spinoffs of space ventures than on the advancement of knowledge. "The policy discriminates against large basic sciences which are the way of the future," he said.

## **UNITED NATIONS**

### **World Commission on Environment and Development**

An announcement was made June 20 by then-External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen of an initial Canadian

contribution of \$200,000 through CIDA to the World Commission on Environment and Development. The Commission was established by the UN 38th General Assembly in 1983, and is to recommend "an agenda for action to protect or enhance the environment into the next century," and will also work to increase environmental awareness and cooperation in the international community. Issues involved, which are of concern to both industrialized and developing nations, include acid rain, toxic wastes, deforestation, and desertification.

Canada is represented on the Commission by Maurice Strong, and has issued an invitation to hold a meeting in Canada at a future date. The projected meeting will be preceded by consultations among the scientific, environment and development communities, federal and provincial governments, and industry, according to a CIDA news release of June 20. The Commission is expected to issue its report within two years, which will be considered by both international organizations and national governments.

### **International Youth Year**

In recognition of the International Youth Year (IYY) established by the United Nations for 1985, the Canadian government announced June 28 the creation of a Canadian IYY committee composed of twenty-five members between the ages of fifteen to twenty-four. In making the announcement, then-Minister of State for Youth Céline Hervieux-Payette indicated that the committee was designed to "raise public awareness of the themes and objectives of IYY as well as the concerns and aspirations of young Canadians." Mme Hervieux-Payette added that the mandate of the committee would seek to ensure that the interests of young people would be "integrated with those of other groups in society," along the lines established as objectives of the UN International Youth Year. The names of the Committee members were released in late July by Minister of State for Youth Jean Lapierre, following the first meeting of the Committee July 23-24 in Sutton, Quebec. The Minister sought advice from the members on how best to interpret the three themes of IYY — participation, development and peace. Rosalyn Lawrence of Ottawa was named Chairman (Minister of State for Youth news releases, June 28 and July 27).

## **WORLD FOOD COUNCIL**

### **10th Ministerial Session**

Beginning June 11 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the United Nations World Food Council held its 10th ministerial session. Then-Canadian Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan, President of the Council, urged participating Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture and their representatives to renew their international commitment to the ending of hunger in Africa. Mr. Whelan called upon the world's nations, both developed and developing, to work in close partnership in this effort. He pointed out that while progress had been made in increasing food production, the growing supply had been unevenly distributed. While some nations have experienced a surplus, others have continued to lack