

10. The Committee of the Whole met almost continuously to discuss and recommend a decision on the main substantive subjects of the session. (See Appendix 3 for the decision adopted in plenary, "The Environment in 1982: Retrospect and Prospect", which should not be confused with the sessional document of the same name prepared by the Secretariat.)
11. The Working Group focussed on the draft "Nairobi Declaration", which was intended to serve as an inspirational statement of rededication to the Stockholm Declaration and Action Plan. (See Appendix 4 for the text of the Nairobi Declaration adopted in plenary.) In addition, a smaller core drafting group, including Canada, was established to assist the Working Group and a number of informal groups were formed to draft decisions on more particular issues.
12. The official report of the session, as adopted by Council, was issued as document UNEP/GC(SSC)/4 and is available from the Intergovernmental Affairs Directorate of Environment Canada or the Energy and Environment Division of External Affairs. A telexed report by the Canadian delegation provided a general overview and summary of the session. (See Appendix 5.)
13. Circumstances surrounding the special session - the global preoccupation with economic problems and the inability of delegates to undertake extensive preparatory work - tended to militate against the meeting attaining the sparkle and enthusiasm of the original Stockholm Conference. A certain lack of positive commitment or expectation also discouraged participation by most of the "luminaries" whose presence the Secretariat had determinedly sought; the heads of state of only Kenya, Sudan and Zaire attended. The world press was also notably under-represented.
14. The plenary speeches rather predictably emphasized the commitment to the Principles of Stockholm and outlined national and international environmental projects undertaken in the last decade. Only specific bilateral issues, such as those between Turkey and Greece, Bangladesh and India, Kampuchea and Vietnam, and Libya and Israel, or issues in the draft declaration relating political matters to the environment (apartheid, colonialism, the arms race, etc.) sparked any significant debate in plenary. The dramatic warning by the Executive Director, Mostafa Tolba, that the world faces an environmental catastrophe by the year 2000 "as irreversible as any nuclear holocaust" if nations carry on as they are, stirred little response except from the USSR which insisted its disagreement with that view be placed on record.
15. The Canadian general statement, delivered by Mr. Seaborn, drew expected criticism from the USA delegation for daring to note that the "USA does not seem to share our sense of urgency" on the acid rain problem; that portion of the speech, however, received praise from other quarters.
16. The session did, however, succeed in grappling with fundamental and contentious issues and, in a spirit of compromise - referred to as "the Spirit of Nairobi" - achieved some reasonable and worthy agreements. These