

because an exceptional rise in the number of dubious claims from Indians for refugee status threatened to overwhelm the system and there was a need to facilitate the entry of legitimate travellers from India to Canada.

Events in Latin America required constant monitoring of refugee and human rights matters. Agreements were reached with Mexico and the Commonwealth Caribbean for the hiring of seasonal agricultural workers.

In Eastern Europe, the Department continued to implement the movement of self-exiled persons to Canada. A special task force went to Vienna to speed the processing of Polish self-exiled persons wishing to settle in Canada.

CANADA AND THE THIRD WORLD

North-South questions

As the world fell further into recession in 1981, the challenge of harmonizing the economies of the developed and developing nations became more acute. Although there is a general recognition by the northern industrialized countries that world economies are interwoven, the natural inclination is toward policies of protectionism in times of high unemployment and slow growth.

Canada is committed to progress in the North-South dialogue and the Prime Minister devoted considerable time and travel to Africa, Latin America and Europe in preparation for discussions at the Economic Summit in Ottawa and the North-South Summit in Cancun. In the spring of 1981 the government, through the Department of External Affairs, undertook a review of its North-South policy. It concluded that the improvement of relations between developed and developing countries would continue as a major and long-term policy of the government. In June, the government's response to the 1980 Report of the Parliamentary Task Force on North-South Relations, tabled by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, endorsed the main thrust of the report.

At the Ottawa Summit in July, Western leaders reaffirmed their commitment to support closer integration of the developing nations into the international economic system. In August in Nairobi, the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy adopted a balanced program of action and the Prime Minister announced that Canada would contribute \$1 billion of energy-related assistance over the next five years. In September, the conference on the least developed countries, the annual International Monetary Fund/International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) meetings and the Commonwealth heads of government meeting all called for new policies to develop effective adjustments and endorsed both global negotiations and a proposed World Bank energy affiliate.

In their Melbourne Declaration, the Commonwealth heads of government recognized the need for a spirit of co-operation and they determined to