

Environmental Law

Canadian activity in the environmental law field during the past year has been directed to three main areas: implementation of the Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment and its Action Plan; the development of a legal regime for the prevention of marine pollution and bilateral discussions with the United States on environmental matters. The impetus generated by the Stockholm Conference for environmental law is still being felt and continues to be the basis of the Canadian approach to environmental law matters. The Stockholm Declaration, particularly Principles 21 and 22 on state responsibility for environmental damage and the development of international law for liability and compensation for pollution damage, served as the foundation for Canadian proposals on marine pollution put forward in the U.N. Seabed Committee and in IMCO as well as serving as the basis for discussions with the U.S.A. on trans-border environmental problems. The effective implementation of the Stockholm principles on a world-wide basis requires a permanent international administrative structure and for this reason Canada was a firm supporter at last fall's U.N. General Assembly session of the establishment of a United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) headed by Maurice Strong.

Canada and a group of other nations also were at the forefront in the 27th U.N. session in attempting to maintain the integrity of the Declaration on the Human Environment.

Due to a bilateral dispute between Argentina and Brazil Principle 20 of the draft Declaration, on the duty to consult for