

tarian functions (External Affairs communiqué, September 18).

Ozone Layer Treaty Signed

Montreal hosted a diplomatic conference attended by more than forty nations from September 14 to 16, to sign a global treaty on the protection of the ozone layer. The conference represented the culmination of ten years of negotiations in which Canada had been playing a key role (Environment Canada communiqué, August 14).

Technical negotiations took place the week before the conference convened. Difficulties arose on several fronts: the developing countries, led by Argentina and Brazil, argued that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) — the leading cause of damage to the ozone layer — were vital to their economic survival; the US demanded a rigid ratification formula to the treaty; and environmentalists such as Julia Langer, an observer on the Canadian negotiating team, claimed that unless the US, Britain, France, Japan and the USSR changed their positions, the final document would be so weak that it would only slow, but never stop, the destruction of the ozone layer (*Globe and Mail*, September 12 and 14).

On September 16 twenty-four nations signed a global agreement — termed by Environment Minister Tom McMillan "a law of the air" — which committed the world to a 50-percent reduction in some ozone-destroying chemicals by 1999. A freeze on production would begin in 1990, followed by an initial cut of 20 percent in chemical use by 1994.

Canada's enabling law, the Environment Protection Act, was in its second reading in Parliament when the conference took place. Other countries would also require enabling legislation passed before the agreement would have any force. Mostafa Tolba, who spearheaded the ozone campaign on behalf of the UN Environment Program, said the agreement would have to be the start of a series of global environment treaties, and nations would have to agree to stop other forms of pollution that threatened to change the world's climate. They must also agree to stop destroying the world's rainforests, he said (*Globe and Mail*, September 17).

NATO

Norway Troop Withdrawal

Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland told the West German newspaper *Die Welt* on August 16 that Canada should abandon its plans — announced in the June defence White Paper — to withdraw its forces from Norway, at least until NATO came up with an alternative (See "International Canada" for June and July 1987). Mrs. Brundtland emphasized that Norway was one of only two NATO countries — the other being Turkey — sharing a border with the USSR. Asked whether France should take over Canada's commitment to Norway, Mrs. Brundtland said that it was one of the NATO propositions being considered by Norway. But, she added, "the ball is now in NATO's court" (*Le Devoir*, August 17).

Innu Protest

On September 13 a spokesman for the Innu National Council, Penote Michel, said that a group of Innu from Labrador and one from Quebec were setting up camp in the middle of a NATO bombing range, about 95 kilometers south of Goose Bay, Labrador. Jets from Canada, the US, the Netherlands, West Germany and Britain practised low-level bombing by dropping light-explosive dummy bombs on the site, which Mr. Michel said was in a former hunting and meeting ground. The Innu intended to hunt game there and to stay indefinitely, he said. The area was not fenced, and the 10,000-member tribe had never signed a treaty with the federal government, Mr. Michel said, and thus Canada had no right to the Innu ancestral land. The Innu claimed that the low-level flights threatened caribou and other wildlife (*Ottawa Citizen*, September 14).

On September 18 a spokesman for the Canadian military said that the Innu action had had no effect because NATO was using other bombing ranges further north. The military was taking aerial photographs of the group, but otherwise was leaving them alone, said Lieut. Anthony White. Peter Penashue of the Innu Association of Goose Bay said the group intended to camp on the range until mid-October, when low-level flying exercises were set to end for the season (*Ottawa Citizen*, September 19).

La francophonie

Quebec Summit

The leaders of *la francophonie*, a confederation of French-speaking nations, met in Quebec City from September 2 to 4.

The night before the second francophone summit opened, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark said that human rights abuses in participating countries would not be an official topic of discussion, because the issue of human rights was too divisive to be tackled by a group as recently formed as *la francophonie*.

Nine of the group's members — Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Haiti, Lebanon, Niger, Chad and Vietnam — had been criticized by Amnesty International for jailing people without trial; three — Madagascar, Mali and Niger — for inhuman prison conditions; Laos and Vietnam for sending political prisoners to hard labor in "re-education camps;" and thirteen countries at the summit for using torture and inhuman treatment.

However, Mr. Clark said, human rights were a "preoccupation" of the Canadian government, and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was likely to raise the issue in talks with individual leaders (*Montreal Gazette*, September 1).

On the first day of the summit, Mr. Clark announced that Canada intended to cancel the development assistance debts owed to it by a number of low-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa. For French-speaking countries — Senegal, Zaire, Madagascar, Cameroon, Congo, Ivory Coast, and Gabon — the measure would eliminate \$324.9 million of debt (External Affairs communiqué, September 2).