

activities on the environment and in the promotion of sustainable development.

The publication of the WCED report in April 1987 directed world attention towards the urgent need for international co-operation in implementing sustainable development into all levels of planning (i.e., environmentally sustainable economic development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations).

In 1987 Canada supported sustainable development in many international forums. The Minister of the Environment was one of several ministers and heads of government who spoke in the historic Special Plenary Debate on the WCED report at the 42nd UN General Assembly. Canada participated in the biennial deliberations of the Second Committee on Environment Issues, which adopted important resolutions on the WCED report, on the environmental perspective to the year 2000, and on ozone depletion.

Canada continued to be active in the UN Environment Program (UNEP), participating in the 14th Governing Council of UNEP in June. Canada was host for an international conference in Montreal in September, during which the first global Protocol on Depletion of the Ozone Layer was concluded (regulating the production, emission, and use of chlorofluorocarbons and other ozone-modifying substances). Canada also took part in the first Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council in March 1988, when the next six-year environmental plan (1990-95) for the UN system as a whole and the medium-term plan for UNEP itself were debated.

The 1987 Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species was held in Ottawa in August, and the "RAMSAR" Convention on the Preservation of Wetlands Waterfowl Habitat took place in Regina in July. Canada took part in the 17th Session of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature General Assembly in Costa Rica in January 1988.

In the Economic Commission for Europe, Canada took part in the negotiations on a new Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions. It is expected that the Protocol will be signed in 1988.

Canada continued participation in most OECD environmental programs. In November a Chemicals Experts Workshop on Co-operation on Existing Chemicals was held, designed to chart the course for a new program of work on existing chemicals that pose environmental hazards. Further progress was also made on an international agreement on the control of transfrontier movements of hazardous substances and the integration of environmental considerations into economic decisions.

Nuclear issues

There was a renewal of confidence during the past year in the safety of nuclear power as the shadow of Chernobyl continued to dissipate. Canada continued participation in the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), related not only to nuclear safety but also to the IAEA's other important functions, notably safeguards. Canada also participated in various multilateral nuclear activities, including meetings of the OECD's Nuclear

Energy Agency committees and expert working groups as well as consultations preparatory to the Fourth Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Bilaterally, Canada entered into nuclear co-operation agreements with Switzerland and Hungary, reached *ad referendum* agreement on nuclear co-operation with Uruguay, and held a further round of negotiations on a nuclear co-operation agreement with the People's Republic of China. In addition, nuclear co-operation/non-proliferation consultations were held with a number of Canada's nuclear partners including the United States, the Soviet Union, the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), Japan, Korea, Sweden, Finland and the Netherlands. Two issues of public interest were pursued during consultations with the United States: the possibility of overflights of Canadian territory by aircraft transporting plutonium from Europe to Japan under the new U.S.-Japan nuclear co-operation agreement, and the safety of U.S. nuclear power plants being operated close to the Canada-U.S. border. The issue of plutonium overflights was also pursued with Japan and EURATOM.

As a staunch supporter of the NPT and the non-proliferation regime based on it, Canada paid close attention to the non-proliferation and safeguards implications of the decision to acquire nuclear-powered submarines. Canada negotiated *ad referendum* non-proliferation and safeguards agreements with both potential supplier countries, the United Kingdom and France, and held discussions with the IAEA on the non-application of multilateral safeguards to nuclear material involved in this non-proscribed military activity. Canada made clear that material involved in the nuclear-powered submarine program would be used for naval nuclear propulsion purposes only and that either multilateral or bilateral safeguards would be in place to verify this at all times.

Canada continued to lead the world in the mining and export of uranium. Exports for 1987 were in excess of 13 000 tonnes valued at over one billion dollars. Major customers continued to be the United States, Japan and EURATOM. The Department also continued to support the marketing activities of the Canadian nuclear industry, led by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and Ontario Hydro, which continued to pursue sales opportunities in a number of markets for a variety of nuclear products, from nuclear reactors to radioisotopes.

Space

Canada's space activities are almost entirely international, due largely to a policy decision early in the quarter-century-old Canadian Space Program not to develop satellite launch vehicles. As a result Canada's access to space depends on international co-operation. Trade considerations are also important: Canada's space industry is a world leader in selected areas of specialization, or niches, and its space companies export over 70 per cent of their production in the face of stiff international competition.

The Department leads negotiations aimed at developing government-to-government agreements required to support international co-operation in space. Intensive negotiations have taken place concerning Canadian participation in the Space Station, which is the most significant international