

2. the biodiversity and climate change treaties should be followed up, Canada will ratify the treaties within the year;
3. Canada will exchange the \$145 million in ODA debt held by Latin American countries for sustainable development projects. In addition, Canada will contribute to the Rain Forest Pilot project and will contribute \$25 million to the Global Environment Facility;
4. Canada believes that multilateral institutions such as the UN must continue to be involved and the Canadian government has broadened the mandate and funding of the International Development Research Centre to include environmental concerns;
5. Canada believes that the idea of an Earth Charter of environmental rights and responsibilities should be revived and completed by 1995.⁴

PARLIAMENTARY COMMENT

The conference in Rio prompted considerable parliamentary comment. A number of MPs made statements supporting UNCED and calling on the government to take strong positions at the conference.⁵ Liberal member Warren Allmand submitted a petition from his riding calling for a debate on Canada's commitment to reducing carbon dioxide emissions, its commitment to the biodiversity treaty and its long-term commitment to sustainable development.⁶

NDP member Svend Robinson discussed the situation in Malaysia where logging is threatening an area of rain forest which is the home of the Penan people and called on the government to take action, including supporting the establishment of a biosphere reserve in the area to protect the remaining forest. Bill Domm, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Science, responded that Canada is concerned about deforestation in Southeast Asia but did not believe that logging should be banned in Malaysia and pointed to Canada's "positive" approach "through its development assistance programs and participation in international organizations" relating to the world's forests.⁷

⁴ Office of the Prime Minister. "Notes for an Address by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Earth Summit," Rio de Janeiro, 12 June 1992.

⁵ See: *Commons Debates*. 18 September 1991: 2302. *Commons Debates*. 20 September 1991: 2454. *Commons Debates*. 3 April 1992: 9308-9. *Commons Debates*. 13 May 1992: 10625. *Commons Debates*. 14 May 1992: 10721. *Commons Debates*. 19 May 1992: 10877. *Commons Debates*. 8 June 1992: 11558. *Commons Debates*. 12 June 1992: 11905.

⁶ *Commons Debates*. 7 May 1992: 10276-7.

⁷ *Commons Debates*. 7 April 1992: 9483-4.