



The year under review, from April 1, 1988, to March 31, 1989, was an eventful one for both Canada and the global community at large. For Canada, it was a time of active participation and leadership in a wide range of newly energized multilateral endeavours, as well as that of the ratification and entry into force of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. For the international community generally, it was a year characterized by the marked diminution of East-West tensions, and a concomitant series of changes on both sides of the East-West divide and in the Third World.

Improving relations between the two superpowers were both cause and effect of the easing of a number of major problems. The destruction of Intermediate-Range nuclear weapons, required by the 1987 intermediate-range Nuclear Force (INF) Treaty, was begun by both sides, and Strategic Nuclear Arms Reduction Talks (START) were held between the two, before the United States general election forced their temporary suspension in September. At the United Nations in December, U.S.S.R. General Secretary Gorbachev announced unilateral cuts planned for Soviet conventional forces, and followed in January, at the Paris Conference on Chemical Warfare (CW), with a promise to destroy all Soviet chemical and biological weapons. In January the review conference in Vienna of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) concluded successfully, which in turn gave birth to a further series of East-West meetings on everything from conventional force reductions, which started in March, to human rights. As a member of the 40-nation Geneva Conference on Disarmament, Canada welcomed all these developments, and was directly active in the CW conference, the CSCE meetings and the new talks on conventional force reductions in Europe. As the year ended, Canada was working closely with the new Bush administration and other allies on the co-ordination of new approaches to these developments, in anticipation of NATO's imminent, and very timely, 40th anniversary summit.

The new climate in superpower relations had a positive influence in other areas, where Canada had interests at stake and was directly involved.

In particular, a new, more constructive Soviet approach to the United Nations and an enhanced American appreciation of the organization's potential contributed to such successful UN enterprises as the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) supervising the Iran-Iraq ceasefire, and the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) team sent to observe the Soviet Union's withdrawal from Afghanistan, completed on schedule in February. Canada participated in both UN groups.

This renewal of the UN's activity in peacemaking and peacekeeping was evident in the Secretary-General's role in the Iran-Iraq ceasefire, and in the progress made towards the implementation of the Security Council's decade-old Resolution 435, calling for the independence of Namibia. A U.S.-brokered agreement among South Africa, Cuba and Angola, in August, paved the way for the implementation of the UN's independence plan for Namibia, put together earlier by Canada and the other four countries of the UN Contact Group; by year's end, Canadian troops were arriving in Namibia as part of the UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), set up to oversee the transitional arrangements.

Elsewhere in Africa, the news was not so encouraging. The civil war in the Sudan intensified, while continuing famine and drought in Ethiopia did little for Sudanese refugees and aggravated the bitter conditions of the Eritrean war.

In South Africa, internal intransigence gave way to a more ambivalent state of affairs, in which the erosion of petty *apartheid* and vague official rhetoric about further reform co-existed with the unmistakable persistence of most major legal and institutional pillars of *apartheid*, and the fourth year of the state of emergency. Internal violence subsided somewhat, but the destabilization of Front Line neighbours, if anything, increased. South Africa seemed to be relying almost exclusively on its deal on Namibia to enhance its international image, until late in the year, when President Botha suffered a stroke, F.W. de Klerk became the new party leader, and speculation about new constitutional reforms again began to circulate.

The Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' Committee on South Africa, chaired by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Joe Clark, met in Toronto in August and in Harare in February, where they pursued their work on the crucial questions of sanctions and propaganda. Canada's own selective economic sanctions were adhered to, and the government increased its resources devoted to aiding the victims of *apartheid* and to promoting black-white dialogue among South Africans.

In the Middle East, as the "Intifada" uprising in the West Bank and Gaza continued largely unabated, new and more moderate positions were adopted publicly by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) on Israel's right to exist and on terrorism, shortly before Canada assumed its seat on the UN Security Council in January. In March, Canada dropped earlier restrictions on its diplomatic contacts with the PLO, while continuing to encourage movement by both parties towards an appropriately structured peace conference, along with other Western countries. Canada did not accord recognition to the Palestinian "state" proclaimed by Chairman