

ENVIRONMENT

Both sides noted that environmental concerns are of increasing importance in their countries. This observation is in harmony with the main recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development chaired by Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, which seeks to integrate environmental and economic considerations to ensure sustainable development.

A mission to Canada from December 6-11, 1987 served to identify the following areas of co-operation: acid rain and acid deposition, protection of soils and phreatic water, new technologies for purification and treatment of toxic wastes, fishing resources and coastal pollution, the dynamics of forest pest populations, and methods for taking inventories of large animal species. Both sides agreed that the integration concept of economic and environmental factors could be applied to these fields.

Both sides recommended that, over the next two years, projects in these fields be implemented, that teams be identified, and that corresponding system of co-operation be established.

As for already-formulated projects, the group proposed:

- pursuing efforts on ecotoxicology. That is, drawing up a program on bioindicators of contamination in aquatic environments, and creating and completing a program evaluating the use of pesticide residues.

These projects could form the basis of an ecotoxicological program, and be developed in relationship with a future program in pharmaceutical research.

Exploring possibilities of co-operation on research on wetlands (monitoring changes, evaluating the potentials of wetland environments, and restoration of such environments), with the use of remote sensing by satellite.

The group stated that it was ready to support projects of interest in the environmental field which fell under the headings of oceanography, space and remote sensing (forecasting sea conditions and ecology of coastal areas).

Both sides agreed to identify the environment as a "prospective sector".