

biomedical scientists from Eastern Europe to work in research laboratories funded by the Medical Research Council. A group of Polish parliamentarians came to Canada to study the Canadian parliamentary system and procedures. Two prominent Czechoslovak journalists visited Canadian media sources and related institutes. Radio Canada International, with funding from the Department, provided technical training for broadcasting professionals from Eastern Europe.

Immigration

The year 1989/90 saw unprecedented changes made to the political structure and economic and social fabric of almost all of Eastern Europe, resulting in the abolition of exit controls and

travel restrictions and the freer movement of people. Only the U.S.S.R. and Albania have not yet passed new immigration legislation. These changes caused a 30 per cent increase in visitor visas issued by Canada's six missions in the area, compared with the previous year. The Department no longer needed to intervene on family-sponsored cases in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia or the German Democratic Republic. Only a few family reunification cases remain in Albania, Romania and the U.S.S.R., and the latter cases have been approved in principle. A total of 21,132 East Europeans emigrated to Canada, an increase of over 40 per cent from 1988 levels.

H. THE MIDDLE EAST

During the period under review, Canadian interest in the Middle East was heightened by the visits to Canada in 1989 of President Herzog of Israel and King Hussein of Jordan. Canada's membership on the UN Security Council has meant that concerns about the problems in Lebanon, the Iran-Iraq ceasefire and the Arab-Israeli conflict have been given greater attention. During 1989, Canada continued

to strengthen the closer ties developed in recent years with the Middle East.

The continuing Palestinian uprising and the stalemate in negotiating a final settlement to the Arab-Israeli and Iran-Iraq conflicts provided major challenges for the countries in the region. Canada worked to maximize the prospects for an early settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute, the situation in Lebanon and other regional problems,