

Development, as well as 88 recommendations aimed at guiding states in the further implementation of the World Population Plan.

The Conference emphasized the importance of basic data collection, population dynamics, formulation of population policies, family planning, and communication and education on related topics. Attention devoted to the experiences of individual countries revealed the interrelationship between population goals and policies and socio-economic development. The Conference recommendations incorporated the Canadian view that improved health care is an essential element in the development process. Canada's national statement also addressed the issues of rapid urban growth, aging populations, the impact of population growth on the environment and the need for research on the impact of international migration.

A greater effort to expand and enhance the role of women in the development process was highlighted as being an important goal that would also favourably influence family life and size. Its importance was evidenced in the final report by the creation of a separate section and specific recommendations dealing with women's issues. The report also established linkages between the work of the Mexico Conference and the July 1985 Nairobi World Conference on Women.

Drug control

The year was marked by continued interest in the need for close multilateral co-operation in drug abuse control. Canada continued to support the activities of the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control, the International Narcotics Control Board and the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs. A resolution which Canada co-sponsored in the UN General Assembly in 1984

has led the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs to begin the preparation of a new Convention on the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which will improve international efforts to combat illicit traffic.

Criminal justice

Since 1955, UN congresses on criminal justice issues have been held every five years and Canada has always played an active role in them. In preparation for the Seventh Congress, which will take place in Milan in August 1985, the Ministry of the Solicitor General, in co-operation with the Department of External Affairs, hosted a UN inter-regional meeting of experts on victims of crime in July 1984 and an *ad hoc* meeting of experts on criminal justice data collection and statistics in March 1985. The Department participated in national consultations, undertaken by the Ministry of the Solicitor General, with interested provincial and territorial authorities and non-governmental organizations.

Indigenous affairs

During the year, Canadian indigenous organizations were increasingly active in drawing domestic and international attention to issues vital to their own interests and those of indigenous populations throughout the world. A representative of the Canadian government addressed the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights at its annual meeting in July 1984. In recognition of International Youth Year, Canadian indigenous organizations, with major funding from the government, prepared to host an International Indigenous Youth Conference in Saskatchewan in July 1985.