

delegation to visit Canada; their purpose would be to determine what sort of bilateral co-operation would be possible.

The growth of Canada's scientific and technological relations with Japan has resulted largely from direct, informal contact between institutions and individuals. The Department of External Affairs' activity has focused on the Canada-Japan Offshore Structures Project — a joint research program on tanker-mooring berths, on the exchange of engineers and scientists, and on the exchange of information on such subjects as high-speed transport and space technology. The Canada Council signed an agreement for the exchange of social scientists with the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science.

Environment

Canada's efforts to protect the environment are made largely through the UN Environmental Program (UNEP), the UN Economic Commission for Europe and the multilateral environmental programs of the OECD and NATO. Canada is also looking into the possibility of bilateral co-operation in environmental research with several other countries, notably France and the FRG.

Canada plays an increasingly active role in UNEP and in the operations of the UN Environment Fund. In December, it was elected to another three-year term on the UNEP Governing Council. It is involved in activities sponsored by UNEP, such as the Global Environmental Monitoring System, the International Referral Service and the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals.

An early UNEP priority was support for *Habitat*, the first major UN conference to be held in Canada. Representatives of 132 member states met to consider the physical, social and economic aspects of the man-made environment and to exchange ideas arising from, and experience gained in, the solving of the growing problems of human settlement. At its thirty-first session, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the declaration of principles and recommendations for na-

tional action drawn up at *Habitat*. The Vancouver conference was the first major UN gathering to use audio-visual techniques in its proceedings. The General Assembly also adopted a resolution welcoming Canada's offer to serve as host, for an initial period, to a permanent centre for the use of the audio-visual material developed for *Habitat*.

The Economic Commission for Europe continued to provide a valuable forum for the exchange of environmental information, especially through the Senior Advisers to Governments on Environmental Problems. In particular, the SAEP became increasingly involved during 1976 in environmental questions related to the implementation of the CSCE Final Act. The ECE committee on building, housing and planning accepted Canada's offer to act as host to a seminar on the impact of energy considerations on the planning and development of human settlements, to be held in Ottawa in October 1977.

Canada continued to participate in the environmental activities of the OECD and the NATO Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society. In the Committee, Canada is leading a pilot project on nutrition and health, and co-piloting a study of the application of remote-sensing technology to ocean pollution.

As part of Canada's expanding relations with Europe, discussions proceeded with the European Community on co-operation and exchange of information on scientific and environmental matters. In November 1975, letters were exchanged in Brussels between Canada's Ambassador and the Vice-President of the Commission, establishing a formal framework for co-operation on environmental matters. That relation continued to develop in 1976 with the visit of an expert delegation to Ottawa led by Mr. Scarascia-Mugnozza, a vice-president of the European Economic Community (EEC) with special responsibility for the environment.

International law

In the area of international law, the Department, through its Legal Bureau, has two principal and complementary functions.