

# Policy

## **FOREIGN**

### **Falklands**

As the British fleet approached the Falkland Islands during April, Canada continued to condemn Argentina's April 2 invasion and continued occupation of the British-owned islands. Canada had hoped for a peaceful settlement of the territorial dispute between Argentina and Britain, but supported Britain's "defensive" actions, which led to armed conflict during May after negotiations between Britain and Argentina, and mediation efforts had failed.

Canada's non-military support of Britain included a decision in early April to place an embargo on Canadian export of military equipment to Argentina. On April 12 the Canadian government also banned all imports from Argentina and suspended export credits to that country. An April 13 External Affairs press release stated that the Canadian government's "principal concern is to contribute to ensuring respect for the United Nations Charter and for the rule of international law, consistent with its conviction that force should not be used to settle territorial disputes."

During May, Canada continued to support Britain as fighting broke out around and on the Falkland Islands. Britain's use of force was considered a justified defensive action against Argentine aggression. The invasion of the islands violated international law and the continued occupation violated UN Resolution 502. On May 15 it was reported that Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau made his "clearest and strongest statement of support for Britain since the beginning of the Falklands crisis" (*Globe and Mail*). Mr. Trudeau had clarified Canada's position at a May 14 press conference. Previous statements made by the Prime Minister regarding the use of force to settle the dispute had been interpreted by the media as not completely supportive of Britain's attempts at re-occupation of the islands. Mr. Trudeau told reporters that Canada is "one-hundred percent behind the British."

The nature of Canada's support for Britain was questioned in the House of Commons throughout the conflict. On May 21, P.C. external affairs critic John Crosbie (St. John's West) asked External Affairs Minister Mark MacGuigan to explain exactly what Canada had done to assist Britain. Mr. MacGuigan replied that "We have met every request which Britain has made of us. We have engaged in extensive consultations with the United Kingdom. . . . We have been in very close consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and we have made offers of service and offers of facilitation. We gave tentative approval to a peace initiative by Peru, which was stillborn, overtaken by events and by actions of the Secretary-General before it became operative." Canada's commitment to a contract to supply Candu nuclear technology and fuel to Argentina for

peaceful purposes was repeatedly challenged by opposition members throughout April and May. (See this issue, BILATERAL-Argentina.)

### **Prime Minister Praises Peaceful Sinai Withdrawal**

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau congratulated both Egyptian President Mohamed Hosni Mubarek and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin on their countries' participation in the peaceful withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Sinai desert. In separate letters to the two leaders dated April 25, Mr. Trudeau expressed admiration for the commitment both countries and the United States had shown toward reaching the goal of peace in the Middle East.

### **Trudeau on World Morality**

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau approached global problems from a philosophical position in his address to graduating students at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish May 2. He spoke of the need for a "code of international morality appropriate to the modern world of disorder and insecurity." Tracing the beginning of the erosion of old values back to Copernicus, Mr. Trudeau said that Canadians have not equipped ourselves for the global challenge facing the world. The unique challenges of a modern world cannot be met with the "moral void characteristic of the new age [which is] the root cause of a very troubling awareness that, in our international relations, something is always eluding us. We have not taken hold of our moment in history. We have not seized control of our era." Mr. Trudeau told the students. He urged them to embrace the moral imperative demanded of this age to help forge an organic global society not terrorized by the threat of nuclear war.

### **Global Food Issues**

"Canada and Global Food Issues" was the topic of an April 6 speech given by External Affairs Minister Mark MacGuigan to the Canada Grains Council in Winnipeg. In the address, Mr. MacGuigan discussed the growing relationship between Canada's foreign policy and aspects of food production, trade and global food security.

Mr. MacGuigan pointed out that the basic objectives of the World Food Conference a decade ago — to increase food production in countries where it is most needed; to broaden effective distribution, consumption and nutrition; and to build a better food security system to avoid disruptive wide price swings — still haven't been met. Mr. MacGuigan sees the primary factors working against those objectives as political, not economic or technological.