

warfare, killing and wounding thousands, flattening large parts of Beirut, and creating huge flows of desperate refugees. In mid-year the merciless bombardments between the forces of General Michel Aoun and the Syrian army led to outpourings of concern in Canada as elsewhere, and demonstrations and delegations of Lebanese Canadians in which the disparate sections of the community were even able to come together to appeal for Canadian assistance. After much international consultation at the United Nations and elsewhere it clearly emerged that the Arab League was the best-placed agent to attempt to secure a truce and mediate further progress toward some enduring resolution. The worst of the fighting has again been interrupted and new efforts made to secure a viable Lebanese political leadership, even after the ghastly setback of the assassination of President Rene Mouawad, just 17 days after his inauguration.

Whatever arrangements are now possible to restore some measure of law and orderly government it is clear that the conflict in Lebanon is extremely deep-rooted, with many external and internal ramifications and profound political, socio-religious, and economic dimensions inside the country. Resolution will require constructive attention to all these aspects both within and outside the country. This Institute has made a major commitment to attempt to help with an extensive consultative process over the next two years.

On one other front in the volatile region, there was very little progress made in 1989 in implementing the 1988 UN Resolution which established a cease-fire to the eight year Iran-Iraq war, with a contingent of Canadians still participating in the UN Observer Group. Responding to a new stage in the Iranian incitement to international terrorism, Canada withdrew its charge d'affaires from Teheran in February (7 months after re-establishing official relations with Iran) following Ayatollah Khomeini's call for the assassination of author Salman Rushdie over his book "Satanic Verses."

### *The Horn of Africa*

Perhaps nowhere in 1989 did the vicious combination of warfare, famine and dislocation come together so devastatingly as in the Horn of Africa. Wars rage on in Sudan, Somalia and on two fronts in Ethiopia, and former US President Jimmy Carter, who has been attempting to mediate, best captured the total impact in his comment on Sudan:

"More people perished as a result of the conflict than all other wars [in the world last year] combined. Perhaps a quarter of a