

As a member of the Uranium Exports Review Panel, the Department has been involved in the review of export contracts and in the development and application of Canada's uranium export policy. Although the international market for uranium remains weak, Canada has maintained its position as the world's largest exporter. Exports for 1986 were in excess of 8 000 metric tonnes valued at over \$800 million. Major customers were the US, Japan and Western European countries.

The Department provided support for the marketing activities of the Canadian nuclear industry, led by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL), which continued to pursue sales opportunities for a variety of nuclear products from power reactors to radio-isotopes in countries such as Colombia, Japan, Korea, The Netherlands, Egypt, Yugoslavia and Romania.

The environment and environmental law

A number of environmental incidents, including the Chernobyl explosion and the chemical spill at Basel, underscored the urgency of collective action to manage environmental risks and reduce global pollution. Canada continued to play an active part in international activities on the environment.

The 1986 Tokyo Economic Summit reaffirmed the responsibility of Summit and other governments to preserve the natural environment, including management of natural resources in co-operation with developing countries. In May and June, the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) held hearings in Ottawa and across Canada to gather evidence for its report, and the World Conservation Strategy review meeting and the Fate of the Earth conference took place in Ottawa. In March 1987, Canada attended the OECD High Level Meeting on Chemicals, which agreed to give new attention to testing and control of chemicals already in commercial use and to achieve greater co-operation to prevent and manage chemical accidents.

Within the ECE, Canada took part, in co-operation with like-minded nations, in preliminary drafting of a new Protocol to the Convention on Long Range Transport of Atmospheric Pollutants to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions. Canada continued to be active in UN Environmental Program (UNEP) activities, chairing the group drafting the UNEP report on Environmental Perspectives to the Year 2000, which was to be presented to the UNEP Governing Council and the UN General Assembly in 1987 together with the report of the WCED. It also participated in UNEP discussions on waste management, water management and protection of the ozone layer, through reducing the production and use of chlorofluorocarbons.

Preparations began for the 1987 Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, to be held in Ottawa, and the "Ramsar" Convention on preservation of wetlands habitat, to take place in Regina.

Protection of the ozone layer

On 4 June 1986, Canada became the first country to ratify the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone

Layer. Since then Canada has participated in two meetings (in Geneva in December 1986 and in Vienna in February 1987) of a working group of legal and technical experts elaborating a control protocol which will strictly regulate the production, emissions and use of chlorofluorocarbons and other ozone modifying substances. Canada will serve as host for a diplomatic conference for the signing of this protocol and the conference is to take place September 8-16, 1987, in Montreal.

Transboundary movement of hazardous waste (Canada-US)

On October 28, 1986, Canada and the United States signed an agreement which will streamline the control of hazardous waste shipments between the two countries. The agreement sets out conditions for the export, import, and transportation of the estimated 100 000 tonnes of hazardous wastes which are shipped annually across the Canada-US border.

The agreement takes into account a recent OECD Council decision and recommendations on Transfrontier Movements of Hazardous Wastes, the UNEP Cairo Guidelines and Principles for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Waste, and resolutions of the London Dumping Convention.

Environmental impact assessment

Canada participated with 25 other countries in the second and final session of the UNEP Working Group of Experts on Environmental Impact Assessment held in January 1987. The Working Group agreed on three goals and 12 principles to be submitted to the Governing Council of UNEP for adoption in June 1987. Among the principles agreed to were a list of minimum requirements which any environmental impact assessment should include, a requirement for prior notification and comment by interested groups, and obligations regarding the potential transboundary effects of activities being reviewed as part of an environmental impact assessment.

Law of the sea; seabed mining

The Law of the Sea (LOS) Convention sets out a comprehensive regime for the regulation of the world's oceans. By March 31, 1987, 32 states had ratified the LOS Convention, which will enter into force 12 months after the date of deposit of the sixtieth instrument of ratification or accession.

As a state with one of the longest coastlines in the world and with important ocean interests, Canada regards the LOS Convention as a unique opportunity to make a major contribution to world peace and security by reducing the potential for conflict in the competing uses of the oceans. While some parts of the Convention reflect generally-accepted principles of international law, other aspects represent new law. The provisions of the Convention are having a significant impact on Canadian domestic legislation. Failure of the Convention could, in Canada's view, risk a return to the uncertainties that existed before the Convention was negotiated.

During the year under review, Canada participated in the work of the Preparatory Commission (PrepCom), established to set up the institutional system envisaged in