

their rights as recognized in the provisions of the covenant. A number of new cases concerning Canada were discussed by the committee, while consideration of some earlier complaints was concluded.

As a result of a Gambian initiative at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in 1979, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth appointed, in 1980, a working party to make recommendations on a human rights role for the Commonwealth. The working party, chaired by Canada's Ambassador to the Vatican and representative on the UN Commission on Human Rights, made a number of suggestions and recommendations for the consideration of governments in this regard. The working party will meet again in 1981 to study the comments of governments and will prepare recommendations for the next heads of government meeting.

### International legal measures against terrorism

International terrorism, including hijacking, continued to be a serious concern of the Canadian government. This concern was clearly expressed in statements, at the Venice Economic Summit, on hijacking and on the taking of diplomatic hostages. These statements reaffirmed the determination of Canada and its Summit partners to support international conventions to deter terrorism, and to take practical measures to combat international terrorism. The Venice Declaration also provided the basis for further consultations and co-operation between the Economic Summit countries. These bilateral and multilateral measures complement departmental programs to further improve security installations and services for personnel serving at Canadian missions abroad.

At the twenty third Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal in the fall, Canada was instrumental in obtaining consensus on a resolution concerning unlawful interference with civil aviation. The resolution (A23-21), among other things, calls upon ICAO members who are not yet parties to the Montreal and The Hague conventions to adhere to these agreements. It further directs the Secretary-General of ICAO, within a reasonable time from the date of a specific occurrence of unlawful interference, to ask that states parties concerned forward to the ICAO Council all relevant information required by the reporting provisions of the conventions, particularly information relating to extradition or other legal proceedings.

### Cosmos 954

Canada's claim for damages of \$6.04 million in respect of the costs of cleaning up the debris of the Soviet satellite *Cosmos 954* was substantially resolved in 1980. The formal claim had been presented to the Soviet Union in January of 1979, and at the beginning of 1980 the Soviet Union indicated it was prepared to commence negotiations. Three separate sets of discussions were held during the course of the year—the first in Ottawa at the end of February and in early March, the second in Moscow in early June, and the third and final round in Ottawa in November. These meetings provided both the Canadian and Soviet sides an opportunity to discuss the international legal basis of the claim and also permitted the Soviet side to obtain clarification of some of the facts and figures contained in the formal statement of claim and its annexes.

On November 21, 1980, at the end of the third round of discussions, the heads of the Canadian and Soviet delegations initialled a protocol *ad referendum* that provided for settlement of the claim for a sum of \$3 million. The protocol was subsequently approved by both governments.

### Treaty law

During 1980, Canada signed 35 bilateral agreements. In the course of the year, 24 agreements entered into force for Canada upon signature and 17 by ratification or notification. In 1980, Canada also signed six multilateral agreements and became a party to ten through ratification, accession or acceptance. Preparation of a list of treaties in force for Canada as of January 1, 1981, continued during the year.

In addition to its responsibility for the drafting and interpretation of treaties and for the preparation of all formal instruments leading to their establishment, the department maintains up-to-date records on the status of all treaties affecting Canada. Interested persons may consult the 'Canada Treaty Register', which contains particulars of the date and place of signature of a treaty and the dates of tabling in, or approval by, Parliament, together with ratifications and accessions, if applicable, and information on entry into force, reservations, related agreements, subsequent amendments and termination. (For further information, contact the department's Treaty Section.)