

100th session along with a Centennial Forum in Ottawa. At a dinner sponsored by the Canadian government for the Centennial Forum participants and Wheat Council delegates and observers, then-External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen addressed the issue of international cooperation in the grain sector. Mr. MacEachen, expressing the Government's welcome to both member and non-member participants, noted the importance Canada attaches to grain production and trade. He stated that the Council's sessions demonstrated "that all countries, regardless of the size, location, stage of development or economic or political system, have a vital interest in these essential commodities," in a time of expanding population and increased demand. A link was made in the address between the pursuit of strong international cooperation in the grains trade and the "promotion of peace and security," in which Canada had pursued an active role. Canada was aware of the short- and long-term needs for strengthening world food security, and had endeavored to maintain a balance between food aid and development assistance in strengthening the production capabilities of Third World nations. Mr. MacEachen added that Canada was a firm advocate of international consultation and coordination of national policies in the grain sector, in which the Council played a significant role. Through such efforts, policies may be determined to "safeguard and encourage" food grains development, he concluded (External Affairs statement, June 27).

## IRAN/IRAQ

### **Continuing Conflict**

In early June the Canadian government announced that through diplomatic approaches to both Iran and Iraq, it had again urged an "immediate end to hostilities in the Gulf war and the commencement of peace negotiations." Canada expressed concern that further escalation of the conflict might cause a spread of hostilities to neutral neighboring states "and beyond." Recent developments had, in the opinion of the Canadian government, increased the need for positive action on the part of the international community to end the conflict. In an External Affairs communiqué issued June 6, then-Deputy Prime Minister Allan MacEachen added that Canada remained "prepared to take all responsible measures which are practicable and within its power to contribute to that end."

## ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

### **Canadian Presence**

An international environmental conference, held in Munich, Germany, June 24 to 27, brought together representatives from 31 countries from both East and West to develop a strategy for combatting environmental damage. The four day meeting was attended by Canadian Environ-

ment Minister Charles Caccia, who issued a statement at the conference calling for increased measures to alleviate air pollution. While conference participants reached agreement on a joint strategy for fighting pollution, there was no firm commitment to set specific targets on cutting emissions. The issuing of a final document was delayed as the Soviet Union, pressing for the inclusion of some reference to the arms race, and the United States, stating that an environment conference was not the forum for such discussion, worked toward a release which linked environmental protection with mention of international peace and security (*The Citizen*, June 28).

Conference chairman Friedrich Zimmerman of West Germany noted that the results of the meeting established a political impetus for cleaning the environment. However, some participating nations called for immediate action to combat transborder pollution, noting that countries cannot effectively act alone. The Soviet Union, East Germany, Bulgaria, Belgium, Lichtenstein and Luxembourg committed themselves to a 30 percent reduction in sulphur dioxide emissions by the end of the century, a move advocated by Canada and the other members of the international community who reached consensus on the 30 percent target figure at another environment conference held in Canada last March (see "International Canada" for February and March 1984). The United States, Britain and Turkey remained firm in their refusal to commit themselves to specific cuts.

In his statement to the conference, Mr. Caccia provided a report on Canadian efforts in reducing pollution and cleaning the environment. He stated that Canada had engaged in consultations with industry in order to establish better NO<sub>x</sub> standards. Along with achieving lower lead standards by 1986 (0.29 grams per litre), the Canadian government had, in cooperation with the provinces, invested \$1 per capita in research for the current year. Mr. Caccia also mentioned the modernization of the non-ferrous smelting industry (the major source of SO<sub>2</sub> pollutants), and the introduction of a fuel-switching policy that would see a wider utilization of cleaner fuels. He added that reductions in SO<sub>2</sub> emissions were proceeding on schedule, with an interim goal of 25 percent by 1990 and a final goal of 50 percent by 1994.

Mr. Caccia pointed out to conference participants that while the costs to governments for such measures would be high, the cost of inaction would prove greater. Potential damage from pollution could disastrously affect the Canadian economy — and those of other nations. Speaking specifically of acid rain, he noted that it was a problem of the "politics of downwind." Downwind countries (among which most nations saw themselves) received environmental damage arising from the industry of nations upwind. Such a situation, said Mr. Caccia, called for immediate cooperative action on the part of all industrialized nations. He concluded by saying that delay could increase damage exponentially. While the international community will never have "a complete body of information and scientific knowledge that will determine conclusively what the causes are," Mr. Caccia called upon the nations at the conference to join what he called the "30 percent club" (Ministry of the Environment speech, June 24).