

to WHO technical and scientific staff from abroad, and passed on to other countries the results of Canadian research in the various field of medicine.

A NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER

Canada recognized the importance of economic development as early as the San Francisco Conference, when Prime Minister King underlined the importance of establishing a world community in which social security and welfare were part of the common heritage of mankind. The first United Nations commissioner for technical assistance was a Canadian, Mr. Hugh Keenleyside. These beginnings led to the creation in 1965 of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), to which Canada lent its assistance, ranking seventh among donor countries. By 1983 Canada stood sixth among the 17 OECD donor countries in terms of official development aid. Canada has pledged to increase such aid to 0.6% of its GNP by 1990 and to 0.7% by 1995.

The commercial relationship between developed and developing countries is important to both. Just as developing countries depend on the industrial ones for aid, technology and investment, so also industrialized countries depend on the less-developed ones for markets. Developing countries currently take 30% of the exports of OECD countries.

Environmental considerations play an important part in Canada's aid programs, especially where desertification and deforestation are concerned. A Canadian delegation, which included Canadian Indian and Inuit members, participated in the biennial conference of parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, held in Botswana.

Canada participates in financing the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Finance Corporation, the International Development Association, the Asian, African, Inter-American and Caribbean Development Banks. These organizations receive about two-thirds of Canada's multilateral aid, apart from food aid.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development, created in 1976, received \$33 million for its first three years of operation, and by 1982 Canada's contributions totalled \$42 million.

Canada is particularly interested in the codification of international law and has been involved

closely in UN international law reform. For example, the International Law Commission, on which Canadian diplomat Marcel Cadieux sat, dates back to 1947. More recently, Canada took part in the UN Conference on International Trade Law. From 1964 to 1970 Canada was a member of the Special Committee on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States, and, in 1962, of the Special Committee on the Definition of Aggression.

The legal sub-committee on the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, of which Canada is part, has formulated principles and laid the groundwork for a number of conventions. Canada has played a leading role in preparing three conventions on illicit acts of intervention against aircraft.

The law of the Sea is an extremely important area of international law from the Canadian standpoint because our country has more than 243,000 km of coastline. We have therefore played an active part in the UN Conferences on the Law of the Sea and signed the resulting Convention.

John Read, a Canadian, was one of the founding members of the International Court of Justice, where he worked from 1946 to 1958. It was to this international court that Canada turned in its litigation with the United States over fishing rights in the Gulf of Maine.

THE UNAC: A DYNAMIC ASSOCIATION

In a 1984 message to the United Nations Association in Canada (UNAC), the Secretary-General said that UNAC had enjoyed steadily increasing support despite the difficult international climate. He added that this was "not at all surprising in view of the strong links which have existed between the Canadian Government and people and the United Nations ever since the signing of the Charter."

UNAC annually awards the Pearson Peace Medal for outstanding achievement in the field of international service by a Canadian.

In 1985 UNAC organized a roundtable conference on the subject *The UN at forty: responding to crisis*. This conference brought together leaders of Canadian non-governmental organizations and was also attended by Canada's Ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations, Stephen Lewis and the Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament, Douglas Roche.

All the participants agreed that the United Nations was the cornerstone of the world order. They pointed out that the UN had succeeded often on the human level but was in need of reform. Their conclusions paralleled a statement made by Mr. Lewis before the United Nations General Assembly on December 17, 1984, in which he said that, over the last 40 years, the UN had:

nurtured the welfare of humankind. And that is why gratuitous, fashionable assaults on the United Nations, to diminish or to demean it, just will not do.

The various agencies, whether the United Nations Children's Fund, the UN Development Program, the World Health Organization or the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees, represent all in all, the finest expressions of human aspiration and dedication. The triumph of international peace-keeping is one of those rare reflections of sustained international sanity. The prestige and influence of the office of the Secretary-General augur well for the future direction of this entire organization. Indeed, the present incumbent has won the trust of every Member State - as well he might when one thinks of his skill and initiatives on Afghanistan, on Cyprus, on Lebanon and on the Iran-Iraq conflict, to name but a representative few. It is not so much a solution which is required here; it is rather the inspired knack of keeping doors open, countries talking, a vital process going. These modest initiatives help to keep the world on track when all around us there is menace, alarm and hostility. If the United Nations system did not exist it would somehow be created.

Canada will continue to play a part in the UN. A recent opinion poll showed that more than 80% of Canadians feel that it is very important or reasonably important to help this Organization to succeed.

International Youth Year sees Canada's young people ready to face the challenge. Let us conclude with the words of Kay Worthington, speaking on behalf of Canadian Youth:

I would challenge all the young people present here tonight to work towards supporting the United Nations, its goals and its mandate. And I would challenge the United Nations, and especially its representatives here with us, to respond to the requests and initiative of youth, to be creative, to utilize new ideas and to seek out new ways to solve problems which exist.