

Canada took an active part in the thirty-fourth World Health Assembly with a delegation headed by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Monique Bégin. The Canadian delegation inter alia supported the adoption of the WHO code of marketing of breast milk substitutes.

In 1981, Canada made a substantial contribution to the UN Fund for Population Actions (UNFPA) and took part in the discussions on the focus of and preparation for the World Population Conference to be held in 1984. It also contributed \$25,000 through the Department of National Health and Welfare, to a trust fund for the participation in the 1982 World Assembly on Aging.

Canada's financial contribution to the United Nations system

Canada's contributions to the United Nations fall into three broad categories: (a) annual assessments to finance appropriations of the UN and specialized agencies under their regular budgets; (b) voluntary contributions to the activities of a variety of multilateral economic, social and humanitarian programs; and (c) peacekeeping contributions.

By the scale of assessment approved by the thirty-fourth General Assembly, Canada paid 3.28 per cent of the 1981 regular budget of the United Nations. This assessment, based as it is on national income, amounted to approximately \$23.7 million for Canada and made it the eighth largest contributor to the UN general budget. Canada also contributed over \$42 million in assessments in 1981 to the UN specialized agencies.

As was the case for 1980, additional assessments in 1981 were made for the two more recent UN peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Canada's contributions to these forces in 1981-82 amounted to approximately \$1.2 million for UNDOF and \$6.4 million for UNIFIL. It should be noted that the financing for the UN peacekeeping force in Cyprus, UNFICYP, is on the basis of voluntary contributions by prior arrangement. Canada's annual voluntary contribution consists of the costs of maintaining the Canadian contingent to UNFICYP which amounted to approximately \$26 million in 1981.

The Canadian contribution to UNFICYP is only one example of the support Canada gives to the UN system beyond its fixed assessments. Indeed, the amounts involved in the Canadian voluntary contributions, which are primarily in the area of development assistance, far exceed its assessed amounts. Canada's voluntary contributions in 1981 to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, for example, were in excess of \$66.6 million, while the Canadian contribution to the World Food Program (WFP) was approximately \$94.2 million (\$10 million in currency, \$84.2 million in foodstuffs). Canadian voluntary support for the UN refugee programs carried out through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) amounted to approximately \$21.3 million in 1981.