

Other international developments

During 1974 several of the major personalities on the world stage changed as governments fell and statesmen passed from the scene. The Watergate scandal brought about the resignation of Richard Nixon as President of the United States; an espionage case prompted the resignation of Chancellor Willy Brandt of the Federal Republic of Germany; President Pompidou of France died; a general election in Britain produced a change of government; the Japanese Prime Minister was replaced; the military regime in Greece gave place to an elected government; in Portugal, years of dictatorship ended with the overthrow of the government in April; at year's end hopes were still high that democratic government would be established there and Portugal's African colonies were on their way to independence; a revolution deposed Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia. In Canada, however, a federal election returned Prime Minister Trudeau's government with a substantial majority.

Progress continued during the year in building the structure of détente, a process involving the relaxation of tensions and the development of more normal and open relations between the Western democracies and the Eastern European Communist states. The Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), which moved from Helsinki to Geneva for its second stage, took longer than expected but showed every sign of leading to new understandings and hopes. Parallel negotiations in Vienna on force reductions in Central Europe (MBFR), more difficult and slower, engaged members of NATO and the Warsaw Pact on matters directly related to their security. The U.S. and the U.S.S.R., at a summit meeting in Vladivostok in November, agreed on further steps to limit strategic arms. Despite occasional irritants and major differences, the Soviet-American relationship stayed on the road toward better understanding.

Among the Western allies there was

concern about the adequacy of consultation on global and European matters, particularly between the U.S. and the members of the EEC. The problem had been worked out by the time of the 25th Anniversary of the signature of the North Atlantic Treaty; NATO foreign ministers meeting in Canada in June subscribed to the Ottawa Declaration on Atlantic Relations, reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the treaty and pledging to strengthen their practice of consultation. On the Alliance's southern flank, Greece and Turkey confronted each other over events in Cyprus; although a military clash between them was avoided, no solution to Cypriot problems had been found by year's end. The Canadian peacekeeping contingent on the island was reinforced.

In the Middle East, a remarkable demonstration of diplomacy by U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger brought about increased disengagement between Israel and its Arab neighbours and raised hopes that a peaceful solution to their dispute could be found, although by the end of the year none was in sight and tension continued. The Arab states, particularly because of the oil that several of them produce, were in a strong position to make their views tell, and the voice of the Palestine Liberation Organization was heard in the UN General Assembly for the first time. The new wealth and power of the Arab petroleum exporters had an impact well beyond the area as countries around the world that depended on imported oil took a fresh look at their policies and their budgets.

India's explosion of a nuclear device in May took the world by surprise. Canada had for many years assisted the Indian program of developing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and the Government reacted sharply to the underground test, suspending all nuclear co-operation. Although the Indian Government stated that the test had been for peaceful purposes, there were fears of its effect on the