

Middle East and Africa

Canada supported all positive steps in the search for reconciliation and peace in the Middle East and for peaceful transition to the rule of the black majority in Southern Africa. It continued to provide contingents to UN peacekeeping forces in the Middle East and other parts of the world and, as a member of the UN Security Council, encouraged international efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to the problem of Namibia and to mitigate racial discrimination in South Africa. To the latter end, Canada phased down its government-supported trade activities in South Africa. Canadian relations with the rest of Africa, conducted largely in the friendly context of the Commonwealth and La Francophonie, sought to support the economic development of the member countries of these two associations.

Strengthening nuclear non-proliferation

As a major exporter of uranium and nuclear technology, Canada was in the forefront during 1977 of unilateral and multilateral efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. However, the conflicting tasks of making nuclear technology available to an energy-deficient world and at the same time minimizing the risk of nuclear proliferation continued to create a dilemma. As a firm supporter and signatory of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and a founding member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, Canada has been contributing to an international study to find means of limiting the proliferation risks inherent in current and alternative fuel-cycles. Canada was able to strengthen its nuclear safeguards arrangements with the European Economic Community, and several bilateral safeguards agreements were under negotiation to permit the renewed export of uranium to other countries. There was indication that Canada's strict nuclear standards had influenced the attitudes of other countries towards this critical question.

Human rights

Canada's deep concern over human rights was manifest during the year in the policies it expressed at the Belgrade meeting, in the United Nations, in the Commonwealth, in dealing with Southern Africa and in various bilateral contexts. Canada's abhorrence of *apartheid* was again made evident in, among other things, its support in the UN Security Council for a mandatory arms embargo against South Africa. In dealing with matters of human rights Canada emphasized practical results rather than rhetoric. When necessary and effective, however, it voiced its views strongly on these matters. Canadian positions and statements at the CSCE follow-up meeting in Belgrade, as well as during the UN General Assembly, made this commitment clear.

Law of the sea

Satisfactory resolution of the complex set of jurisdictional and economic problems considered at the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference has been of special importance to Canada. It continued its active role, at the sixth session of the Conference and in related meetings held during 1977, in pursuit of vital Canadian interests. These arose from Canada's extensive coastline and delicately-balanced marine environment, and also from its concern not only with fisheries-management and the exploitation of seabed resources but with the use of the resources of the deep seabed beyond the bounds of national jurisdiction in the interests of mankind as a whole.

The Conference has achieved considerable success, despite the variety of political and economic perspectives represented, and the potential for disputes. Canada has grounds for satisfaction with the results achieved in 1977,