

to other international forums through the heads of government." She indicated that the conference action plan, once rewritten, would be carried around the world as a blueprint. "What we focused on essentially was women as contributors and participants in economic development; not women as recipients of some kind of social assistance" (*Ottawa Citizen*, August 6).

### **Conference for Young Leaders**

At a Commonwealth Conference for Young Leaders, held in Ottawa in mid-September, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark said in a speech to delegates that the Commonwealth often had to choose, on difficult issues, between staying united and being effective. "In some cases, obviously we are most effective by being united. In others, unity must prevail, even at the cost of action. But it is Canada's view that, on the question of fighting apartheid, it is more important that the Commonwealth be effective than united . . . . The pressure against apartheid, by the Commonwealth and others, has unquestionably been effective both economically and psychologically . . . . South Africa hopes there will be a pause in that pressure. They hope that a disagreement about sanctions will divert us from our central task of continuing to build the pressures that could end apartheid. There can be no pause in that pressure — there can be no levelling off. Our duty is to find effective means to hasten the end of apartheid and to sustain those who fight on the front lines" (External Affairs communiqué, September 14).

The conference concluded with delegates urging Canada and other Commonwealth countries to move immediately to give military aid to the frontline states of southern Africa. They said the aid should consist of more than "boots and jeeps," a reference to comments made by Roy McMurtry, Canada's high commissioner to London (See *Bilateral Relations — South Africa*, above). They were, however, not specific as to what form the aid should take.

In addition, delegates urged a Commonwealth boycott of South African cultural and sporting events, and selected economic sanctions aimed at the most vulnerable sectors of the South African economy.

Delegates also passed unanimously a resolution urging the federal and provincial governments of Canada to reopen constitutional talks with Canadian native people.

More than seventy representatives from thirty-six countries attended the conference, which was organized by the Royal Commonwealth Society of Ottawa. The youth leaders' recommendations would be passed on to the Commonwealth heads of government for their October meeting in Vancouver (*Ottawa Citizen*, September 14).

## **OAS**

### **Inter-American Ministers of Agriculture Meet**

On August 24 Agriculture Minister John Wise announced that the ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and the Board meeting of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) — a multilateral technical agency of the Organization of American States (OAS) — would be held in Ottawa from August

31 to September 4. Twenty-nine ministers from the Caribbean and the Americas were expected to attend the conference, which was expected to focus on concerns about debt, development assistance, regional cooperation, technology transfer, joint research and the liberalization of international agricultural trade. Canada had been a member of IICA since 1972, and participated in IICA-related projects through CIDA. Canada's contribution in 1986 to the IICA was \$2.35 million of a total \$50 million (Agriculture Canada communiqué, August 24).

On the final day of the conference, the Ottawa Declaration, stressing the importance of reform in agricultural policies to achieve increased international cooperation and reduced agricultural protectionism, was approved. Agriculture Minister John Wise also stressed the importance of international cooperation: "Canada has a strong involvement in the economic prosperity of Latin America and the Caribbean," he said. "Our exports to the region depend on its healthy growth and development" (Agriculture Canada communiqué, September 2).

During the conference, Mr. Wise's department announced that Canada would contribute \$4.5 million, more than half the \$8 million the institute needed over four years to promote its objectives. The Canadian money was to come from the existing budget of CIDA, and would be used to provide Caribbean, South and Latin American countries with information on cattle artificial insemination and embryo transfer technology, as well as other animal health and plant protection techniques. Canada was the first IICA member to contribute to the technology-sharing program, said Mr. Wise's special assistant John Donald (*Ottawa Citizen*, September 9).

## **United Nations**

### **Environmental Protection**

On August 13 the head of the UN Environment Program for North America, Noel Brown, said that Canada was more advanced than any other country in dealing with the April 1987 report of the Brundtland commission on the global environment. Canada was the first country to create a task force to deal with the report's recommendations, Mr. Brown said, and he encouraged Canada to continue that leadership during upcoming UN debates on environmental protection. The debates were expected to begin in October, and Canada was expected to send a delegation led by Environment Minister Tom Siddon (*Globe and Mail*, August 14). Mr. Brown praised the Canadian task force for inviting industry leaders to participate. "For a long time industry was left out. Why should not the voice of industry be heard at the UN? To date the record of industrial cooperation has been most encouraging." Canada's cooperative approach accurately reflected the recommendations contained in the Brundtland commission's report, he said (*Toronto Star*, August 16).

### **Lewis' Views on the UN**

Canada's ambassador to the UN, Stephen Lewis, said in mid-August that the UN had shaken off its "sense of decay" in the previous year, and budget reforms and new initiatives such as the battle against AIDS and the Iran-Iraq