

in August and the Governor General travelled to the United Nations for UN Day in October.

Canadians presided over efforts to revitalize the UN Development Program (UNDP), chaired the General Assembly's legal committee and the Executive Board of the World Health Organization and won appointment to the Secretariat's top financial position. Canada undertook initiatives in multilateral forums to put the UN development agencies' finances on a more assured footing and chaired the Governing Council of the UNDP. A notable event was our accession to the African Development Bank. The Prime Minister addressed the Second Special Session on Disarmament (UNSSOD) in June, in which Canada played a key role in launching a disarmament campaign.

The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) continued its attempts to solve some issues of international trade in commodities. Canada signed and undertook to apply provisionally, the Sixth International Tin Agreement, which came into force July 1, 1983. Canada also participated in the renegotiation of the International Coffee Agreement and the negotiation of the International Jute Arrangement, the first co-operative producer-consumer commodity arrangement intended to provide for technical and market development measures.

As a follow-up to the 1981 Ottawa and Cancun summits, Canada was active in sustaining the prospect of Global Negotiations. Related developments at the UN were not encouraging, notwithstanding the fundamental importance of progressing in this front.

In March 1983, the non-aligned summit in New Delhi set a somewhat more moderate course for its 101 members as the chairmanship passed from Cuba to India.

Potentially serious damage to the UN system was averted when Israel was accepted for the International Telecommunications Union conference after its credentials were rejected by a procedural motion at an International Atomic Energy conference in September.

Law of the Sea

A highlight of the year was the signing of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which the UN Secretary General called "possibly the most significant legal instrument this century." The Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea began to meet in 1973 to adopt a comprehensive instrument for the management of ocean affairs. On April 30, 1982 in New York, the Eleventh Session of the Conference adopted the Convention by a vote of 130 in favour (including Canada), 4 against (United States, Israel, Turkey and Venezuela) and 17 abstentions. The Convention was signed by 117 countries, including Canada, at a final session held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, December 6-10, 1982. No UN Convention has ever received such a large number of signatures on its first day.

The Convention covers all aspects of maritime law, including jurisdiction of the coastal state; navigation; mining of the seabed beyond national jurisdiction; the settlement of disputes; the protection and preservation of the marine environment; marine scientific research; and the development and transfer of marine technology.

Canada played a major role in providing leadership at the Conference and generating ideas to resolve the vast range of issues. Canada, as a leading coastal state, is a major beneficiary of the Conference, having obtained recognition of

its right to control offshore living and non-living resources as well as to take measures for the prevention of marine pollution, particularly in Arctic waters.

The Convention, when it comes into force one year after the deposit of the sixtieth instrument of ratification or accession, will create an International Seabed Authority to manage the exploitation of the resources of the deep seabed beyond national jurisdiction. In order to prepare for this, the Conference set up a Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea. The Preparatory Commission held its first meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, the future site of the headquarters of the International Seabed Authority, from March 15 to April 8, 1983, and discussed its method and program of work.

The past year has thus marked the culmination of many years of negotiations on the law of the sea. The adoption of the Convention provides a clear set of rules for the management of ocean affairs and is an important contribution to world peace and security.

Environmental questions

The Governing Council of the UN Environment Program (UNEP) held a Session of Special Character in Nairobi in May to mark its 10th anniversary. The Canadian delegation helped to formulate the ensuing "Nairobi Declaration" which reaffirmed global commitment to the principles enunciated in 1972 at Stockholm. The Declaration recognized that greater co-operative efforts would be required to deal with persistent and newly emerging environmental problems, identified trends and priorities and recommended future directions for UNEP over the next decade. Among the dozen recommended priority areas were marine pollution from land-based sources, protection of the ozone layer and the transport, handling and disposal of toxic and hazardous waste. Detailed strategy elements were recommended for each of the priority areas.

An Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts, in which Canada participates, met in Stockholm, January 20-28, 1982, to initiate work on the elaboration of a convention for the protection of the stratospheric ozone layer.

A ministerial Conference on Acidification of the Environment in Stockholm in June 1982 provided political follow-up to the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP), which Canada, the United States and most other ECE members have ratified. The conference recognized acid precipitation as a major international environmental problem requiring urgent co-operative action.

The seventh consultative meeting of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, commonly referred to as the London Dumping Convention, was held in London, February 14-18, 1983. The meeting focused on the dumping of low-level radioactive waste at sea. The meeting adopted a resolution proposed by Spain that called for a suspension of dumping of radioactive waste until the report of an expert scientific group set up to study the issue is presented, in approximately two years time.

Energy

The year was marked by declining world demand for oil as a result of structural factors, such as substitution and con-