

There were welcome developments in the long-standing Rhodesia issue. At the meeting in Lusaka of the Commonwealth Heads of Government, in which Canada actively participated, an agreement emerged providing for an all-party conference to try to settle the issue. The subsequent Lancaster House agreement on a ceasefire and supervised elections represented an historic milestone which offered the promise of a peaceful solution to this long-standing problem. Canada also continued to be active in promoting a settlement in the development of a plan endorsed by the UN to establish a demilitarized zone along the borders of Namibia. Elsewhere in Africa, Ethiopia and Uganda remained countries of continued unrest.

In the Western Hemisphere, Central America and the Caribbean became a zone of growing instability. The repercussions of the revolution in Nicaragua were felt throughout the region.

The fact that there was an increased resort to military force in the world during 1979 underlined the necessity of pursuing all ways and means of achieving peaceful solutions to global and regional problems. It was particularly through collective solutions that Canada was best able to put its resources to use in search of peace. Canada actively sought such solutions through the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations as well as through the other more specialized bodies such as the Continuing Committee on Disarmament. Canada also remained deeply committed to United Nations peacekeeping during 1979. Until mid-year, when the United Nations Emergency Force in the Sinai was withdrawn, Canada was the major contributor to United Nations peacekeeping operations. At year's end, Canada continued to be one of the largest contributors, with Canadian military personnel serving with the United Nations Force in Cyprus and with the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force on the Golan Heights between Israel and Syria.

### **East-West relations and collective defence**

In addition to its geopolitical impact, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan created serious tensions in East-West relations which threatened to have a negative effect on a number of areas of East-West co-operation. A question arose as to the Soviet Union's real commitment to *détente* in the light of the developments in Afghanistan; the foundations of *détente* were seen by Canada as being dependent on the growth of mutual confidence between East and West, and this confidence had been significantly diminished as a result of the invasion. In Canada's view, *détente* could not be confined to the relaxation of tensions in Europe alone, but rather had to be applied on a global scale. The Canadian Government announced its intention to examine a series of measures in response to the invasion. The pressures on *détente* and on East-West relations in general at the end of 1979 did not augur well for an early return to the slow but steady progress which characterized the building of East-

West co-operation during the 1970s.

With regard to defence efforts in 1979, Canada continued to participate actively in collective defence through membership in both NATO and NORAD. Canada remained convinced that in addition to its collective defence role, NATO had an important political role to play as a forum in which ways of reducing sources of East-West conflict could be developed.

NATO defence and foreign ministers met in December 1979 and agreed, in response to the ongoing Soviet program of expanding its theatre nuclear forces, to modernize NATO's European theatre nuclear forces. Equally important was the decision taken concurrently by these ministers to offer to enter into negotiations with the Soviet Union to limit the proliferation of these weapons systems by both sides.

Canada continued to make a contribution towards the implementation of the Alliance's "Long Term Defence Program" designed to improve the deterrence and defence postures of NATO. The Canadian Armed Forces were equipped by the end of 1979 with a total of 128 new Leopard C-1 tanks, and initial deliveries of three types of new armoured vehicles were made in 1979. Other capital acquisition programs designed to help Canada meet NATO force goals progressed satisfactorily in 1979.

### **Arms control and disarmament**

In the arms control and disarmament field, the signing of SALT II in June 1979 led to hopes of further progress of negotiations such as a comprehensive test ban. At the first session of the Committee on Disarmament—the multilateral negotiating body revitalized by the UN Special Session on Disarmament—Canada pursued a comprehensive test ban and other proposals such as a chemical weapons ban and a ban on the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes. The Special Session also decided to revive the UN Disarmament Commission, and Canada played an active role in the deliberations held in the commission on the elements of a comprehensive program of disarmament. In addition, Canada sought to promote the implementation of the various recommendations of the Special Session through direct participation in three UN disarmament studies, establishing a Consultative Group on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs and cosponsorship of seven resolutions in the First Committee of the thirty-fourth UN General Assembly. Though prospects for further agreements remained uncertain at best and the outlook for progress at the end of the year in the wake of the invasion of Afghanistan was even less promising, there remained an underlying recognition that arms control agreements continue to be in the overall interest of both East and West.

### **Exports of nuclear technology**

During 1979, Canada continued to export nuclear material, equipment and technology to a number of countries (e.g.