

ment of an emergency fund (*Globe and Mail*, September 10).

Not all people gathered in Toronto were there to endorse the principles of the IMF and the World Bank. Critics attended a counter-conference called the Global Impact of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The IMF delegates charged, had broken its own regulations in order to further the political and economic ends of the United States, its largest sponsor. The US was also blamed for influencing an IMF departure from accepted practice in July when the fund decided to make a \$36 million loan to El Salvador. Finance ministers from developing countries were also critical, saying they wanted less stress on the economic difficulties of the industrial countries and more emphasis on their own plight. Speakers at the counter-conference accused the fund of hostility to Nicaragua, which had not met the criteria for an IMF loan. Canadian economists spoke at the counter-conference about the impact of IMF support of tight monetary controls on the Canadian economy and Canadian workers (*Globe and Mail*, September 8 and 9).

## UNITED NATIONS

### UNESCO Conference

A delegation of Canadians participated in the second world Conference on Cultural Policies (MONDIACULT), convened by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in Mexico City from July 26 to August 6. Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Gérard Pelletier headed the Canadian delegation. The main concerns of MONDIACULT were "to review the basic problems of culture in today's world, to take stock of the latest ideas and thoughts on the prospects for cultural intercourse among nations, to examine the cultural dimension of development and to seek ways to promote the mutual strengthening of cultural identity and interchange" (External Affairs press release, July 23).

### Committee on Disarmament

The Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Donald MacPhail, presented Canada's position to the United Nations Committee on Disarmament on August 3 at the start of the Committee's summer session. He told the opening session of the forty-member group that in Canada's view, "the Committee should focus its main attention on three substantive areas — chemical weapons, a comprehensive test ban and outer space." These priorities were agreed to by other nations. Mr. MacPhail told reporters, "It was a workman-like opening with unanimity between the East, West and South on practical matters." It was the first time all countries had agreed at the outset of a committee session, according to the *Globe and Mail* article August 4. The article said that Mr. MacPhail believed that the Committee is closer to negotiating treaties on disarmament and arms control than it has been since its establishment in 1979.

### UNISPACE Conference

Canada participated in the Second United Nations

Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE), held in Vienna from August 9 to 21. The purposes of the Conference were: to bring developments in space science and technology to the attention of all countries, particularly developing countries; to show how this technology could be applied to problems of national development; and to consider how international cooperation in this area could be strengthened. The Canadian delegation, headed by Science and Technology Minister John Roberts, included representatives from the federal and provincial governments, the space industry and the university community (External Affairs press release, August 6).

### Namibian Contact Group

Progress already made by the UN-sponsored "contact group" toward negotiating the independence of Namibia, presently ruled by South Africa, was reported "jeopardized" and "sabotaged" in September as a result of a US demand (*Globe and Mail*, September 17; *The Citizen*, September 24). (The US, along with Canada, Britain, France and West Germany, comprise the group, whose task is to devise a Namibian independence plan acceptable to South Africa, the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) and other African nations.) The Reagan Administration insisted on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from neighboring Angola at the same time as South Africa relinquishes control of Namibia.

This "linkage" has been opposed by Canada and other members of the contact group, according to newspaper articles. The *Globe and Mail* September 17 reported that the talks might collapse as a result of the US demand. A Canadian official told reporters that Canada "would find it very difficult to justify any outcome whereby the contact group settlement plan broke down because of linkage." The report said that Canadian officials were not optimistic about a US-Angolan agreement.

Canada's position was further explained in a September 24 *Citizen* article. It said, "By allowing the US to take *de facto* control of the negotiations, the contact group countries have left themselves exposed to criticism from black African countries who fear US ties to South Africa. If this round of talks fails, there is a distinct possibility the contact group will collapse and the Namibia issue will finally be resolved by the sword and not by the pen."

A Canadian diplomat told reporters, "The position we have taken is to tell the Americans to get the agreement on the Angolan situation if they can, but it is strictly a bilateral matter . . . If they can get it on top of the settlement agreement, fine, but what we want is an agreement on Namibia" (*The Citizen*, September 24). According to the *Globe and Mail* article, Canada thinks that "The difficulty is that Washington has to pull off in a matter of weeks an accord that would usually take six to eight months [since] the fragile agreements for the transfer of power from South Africa to Namibia made by the contact group could fall apart if the deal is not sealed shortly."

### Complaint to International Labour Organisation

Canada's public sector wage control bill is to be examined by the International Labour Organisation during its November session because the Professional Institute of the Public Service complained to the UN agency that the