

## *Other Issues*

Subjects as diverse as protection of the environment, science and technology, narcotic drug abuse, AIDS, and education have been addressed by Summit leaders in the past. While it is not yet clear whether or how these issues will be addressed at the Toronto Summit in view of the desire of leaders to focus on the major economic issues, the following may be of particular interest to Summit leaders this year.

**Environment** — Leaders at the Venice Summit in 1987 reaffirmed their shared responsibility for protecting the natural environment. This has been reflected in the activities of Summit countries in multilateral and UN agencies dealing with such problems as the control of hazardous substances, ozone layer depletion, long-range transport of air pollution (acid rain), and other air and water pollution questions. In September 1987, the Montreal Protocol on Protection of the Ozone Layer was signed.

The report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Report) was released in April 1987 and multilateral institutions; and United Nations organizations are considering how its recommendations can be followed up in relevant forums. The report makes wide-ranging recommendations for the achievement of "sustainable development" through the integration of environmental considerations into economic and social decision making, and protecting common environmental assets for future generations.

**Science and technology** — Science and technology have been featured on the Economic Summit agenda in various ways for the past five years. Summit consideration of issues of science and technology reflects both the growing importance of technology in economic affairs as well as the increasing internationalization of science and technology.

At the 1983 Summit, Japan proposed an annual conference of independent "wise men" on the ethical implications of progress in the life sciences. The Fifth Summit Conference on Bioethics was held in Italy in April 1988; Ottawa hosted the Fourth Conference in April 1987.

**Health issues** have also been addressed by Summit Leaders. For example, cancer was discussed in 1985; AIDS in 1987. In general, Summit consideration of health issues is centered on support for multilateral cooperation, notably through the World Health Organization.