

In South Asia, aid has been given to Bangladesh where a number of natural disasters, including cyclones and floods, devastated the country. Both Madame Landry and the Honourable Barbara McDougall (as Minister for Employment and Immigration) paid official visits to South Asia during the fiscal year.

Canada, as one of the six dialogue partners, took part in the second South Pacific Forum Dialogue Meeting in Vanuatu.

During the year under review, Asia and the Pacific were an extremely important source of immigrants to Canada, many of them entrepreneurs and investors who will contribute much to the Canadian economy.

The Department hosted Canada Business and Technology Week in Seoul, November 1990, and Canada Week in Taipei, among other public affairs programs, to raise Canada's image in Asia Pacific.

WESTERN EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Canada's involvement in the evolution of Europe included participation in world forums and discussion at inter-governmental bodies such as NATO. Consultations were carried out with French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, and the Prime Minister of Italy, Giulio Andreotti, and Canada hosted German President Richard Von Weizsaecker.

In anticipation of the institution of a single market in the European Community, the Department has distributed sectoral reports on Europe 1992 to business and academic communities. A declaration on EC-Canada relations has highlighted the importance Canada and the European Community hold for one another.

Public affairs programs included a large publicity campaign to alert European decision makers of the dangers of overfishing in the North Atlantic. TV5, a Francophone television network in which Canada is involved, is giving Canadian programming a wider international audience.

THE SOVIET UNION AND CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Massive changes have been occurring in the whole structure of the U.S.S.R. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, paid a working visit to the U.S.S.R. and President

Mikhail Gorbachev visited Canada to seek support for his reforms and financial and technical assistance.

The Task Force on Central and Eastern Europe, with a \$35-million Technical Assistance Program, is at the centre of Canada's efforts to support the emerging market economies and democratization in the area. The Task Force launched a project identification mission to the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic in November 1990. Assistance programs were established for Poland and Hungary as well as for the C.S.F.R. Canada is providing technical assistance, management expertise and food aid.

Canada has been supportive of the political and economic reform in the U.S.S.R., but is taking a cautious approach to assure that the proposed liberalization will be accomplished peacefully. In response to the killing of civilians in Lithuania and Latvia by the Soviet military, Canada suspended technical assistance and a line of credit for food to the U.S.S.R.

Cultural relations were fostered through international expositions, educational exchanges, and the promotion of Canadian Studies centres abroad.

MIDDLE EAST

The Persian Gulf crisis required Departmental involvement at many levels from international dialogue and peacekeeping efforts to communications links between the Canadian government and the forces deployed. Implications for the whole of the Middle East were staggering, including extreme physical hardship and the displacement of thousands of people. Canada provided peacekeeping forces to the United Nations Iraq/Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) and is currently involved in both the cleanup and the rebuilding of Kuwait.

On March 31, 1991, Canada provided some \$26 million to the Government of Egypt as well as \$13 million in debt relief to help with refugees.

Jordan was another of the prime beneficiaries of the \$75 million Canada has allocated to assist those countries suffering the effects of the war.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs visited Israel in November 1990 and in March 1991. Mr. Clark also visited Iran and Jordan and met with Saudi leaders and the President of Syria. Following the Gulf crisis, there is a new urgency to find a just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Canada fully supports UN and U.S. efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.