
E. THE ENVIRONMENT

At the consultative meeting on the Protection of the Arctic Environment held at Rovaniemi, Finland, in September 1989, Canada played a major role. Chairing the legal/political group and as an active participant in the scientific working group, the Canadian delegation helped in launching the initiative and in determining a concrete program of business. In recognition of the role of the Canadian delegation, Canada was asked to host the next preparatory meeting of the eight circumpolar countries to be held in Yellowknife in September 1990.

At the conference on transportation of hazardous wastes held in Basel, Switzerland, Canada was instrumental in resolving a series of legal/jurisdictional issues that had held up progress for many months on the Global Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes. The Canadian delegation was not only active in resolving underlying Law of the Sea disputes, but also made important contributions in the range of scientific, technical and political issues involved.

Canada played an active and constructive role in the three working groups of the Intergovernmental Panel

on Climate Change (IPCC), contributing extensively to work on the science and socio-economic impacts of, and policy responses to, climate change. Canada, with Malta and the United Kingdom, led efforts to elaborate a framework convention on climate change, as a major contribution to the first IPCC report, which will be released in August 1990.

At the Paris Economic Summit, Canada was successful in having the G-7 heads of government agree on the urgent need for all governments to work together on resolving global and regional environmental degradation. The Prime Minister's initiative in proposing that the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) should begin work on developing "environmental indicators" (similar to economic indicators) was well received, and work is proceeding on this concept both in Canada and internationally.

At the United Nations Environmental Program Executive Committee Meeting, Canada was instrumental in ensuring that legal work directed towards the elaboration of a climate