

debt problems. He also stated that donor countries should increase their contributions to the International Development Association (issuing low-interest long-term loans to poorer nations). Mr. Wilson told IMF members that Canada would take strong measures to speed the recovery of the Canadian economy. He also touched on Canadian receptivity to foreign investment, stating that "the welcome mat is out . . . We are opening our doors to those who want to share in the tremendous opportunities with which we have been endowed." Reducing the deficit was portrayed as the prime concern of the new Conservative government, in order to facilitate the economic recovery. A lowering of US interest rates would, at the same time, prove beneficial to all nations, said Mr. Wilson (*The Citizen*, September 24, 25).

NATO

Canadian Forces

NATO's deputy supreme allied commander in Europe, Hans-Joachim Mack, called for an increase in Canadian NATO forces in Europe. Making remarks September 19, General Mack suggested a tripling of forces in the Canadian contingent, from an "understrength" brigade (in Lahr, West Germany) to a division "based on the country's wealth and size." The difference between the two was apparent — Canada now maintains a brigade of roughly 50 percent strength of a full 6,000 man force, while an armored division conceivably consists of about 20,000 men (*The Citizen*, September 20). General Mack also made the suggestion that Canada should increase its Norwegian reinforcement (its other NATO land commitment). As "one of the richest countries in the world," Canada was required to strengthen its armed forces, he said. Serious "deficiencies" existed in Canada's European capabilities, he continued, using as an example the lack of short-range air defence systems for the West German brigade and air group.

POPULATION FORUM

Canadian Participation

A global forum on population held in Mexico City in early August focused much attention on the problems inherent in attempting to achieve a consensus in a meeting where participants represented East, West, North and South. Mexican Interior Minister Manuel Bartlett called upon nations involved in the forum sponsored by the UN to avoid "extraneous" political issues and concentrate on the issue of rapid population growth (*Globe and Mail*, September 8). In announcing the Canadian delegation to the International Conference on Population, then External Affairs Minister Jean Chrétien stated that it would include advisers representing provincial governments, NGOs, and several federal departments, including CIDA, External Affairs, Statistics Canada, Employment and Immigration, Health and

Welfare and the Status of Women. The delegation would work with other nations to review and appraise the 1974 World Population Plan of Action reached by the first Conference in Bucharest in 1974, as well as making recommendations on its further implementation, said Mr. Chrétien (External Affairs communiqué, August 3).

Canadian delegation head Senator Lorna Marsden joined other representatives in criticism of the firm US stand against abortion as a method of birth control, and the US view that economic policy rather than family planning held the key to rapid growth. Distancing the Canadian government from US policy, Ms. Marsden stated that Canada did "not believe that economic policy in and of itself can resolve population problems." Canada, she indicated, would leave family planning (and abortion) decisions to "recipient countries." She also told the forum that Canada had, in the past decade, increased its contributions to family planning programs on the international level to \$36.3 million from \$8.2 million. Other "crucial" aspects of a solution to the problem of population expansion included education, health care and women's rights, she added. No restrictions would be placed by Canada on Third World nations receiving family planning aid, as distinct from the US stand, Canada maintaining its "voluntarist" approach. Canada "recognizes the right of sovereign governments to develop their own national policies," said Ms. Marsden (*Globe and Mail*, *The Citizen*, September 8).

As the forum continued amidst a spate of political and ideological controversies, Ms. Marsden repeatedly stressed that the Canadian position differed significantly from that of the US. Contrary to the US view, she stated that "abortion is not really an issue at this conference . . . We see other aspects such as clean water and education as far more fundamental." While the Canadian stand reflects previous policy, Ms. Marsden noted that Canada was now placing greater emphasis on particular issues, such as women's rights. The actual position paper submitted by the Canadian delegation also included mention of Canada's declining birth rate and the fact that immigration would, in future, be regarded more as a "population question" than as an economic one (*The Citizen*, August 11).

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar called upon all nations represented at the forum to adopt "urgent measures" in order to confront the "terrible reality" of a doubling of the world's population in the next century. Demographic policy would continue to play a crucial role in the maintenance of world stability, he said. At the conclusion of the forum, he appealed to members to exert a will to address the "unprecedented challenge" of "this hazard within the limits imposed by the resources that we currently have available" (*Globe and Mail*, *The Citizen*, August 14).

UN

Clark Appearance

On September 25, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark addressed the 39th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York. As the first major foreign