

the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the NATO Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (CCMS) and the UN Environment Program (UNEP).

Of particular interest during 1981, was an international meeting of senior government experts in environmental law, which was held under UNEP auspices in Montevideo, in October-November 1981. Canada was instrumental in ensuring the success of the meeting which laid the foundation for the further development of international environmental law. This progress will be particularly important in the priority areas of marine pollution from land-based sources, protection of the stratospheric ozone layer and the transport, handling and disposal of toxic and dangerous wastes. UNEP is expected to take an important part in the follow-up work on these questions.

Canada ratified the ECE convention on long-range transboundary air pollution in December 1981, and is encouraging other ECE members to do so in order that the convention comes into force with minimum delay. This is the first international agreement designed to reduce acid rain caused by emissions of pollutants crossing national borders. Work related to the provisional implementation of the convention is already under way within the ECE.

The Canadian government places especially high priority on participation in the work of the OECD Environment Committee, especially in the committee's work in the fields of chemicals and the environment, energy and the environment and environmental economics.

Science and technology policy

The government's international scientific activities are aimed primarily at helping to ensure that Canada retains a pre-eminent position among industrialized and technologically advanced countries. This objective is pursued through various means, including the work of science counsellors at major embassies abroad, exchanges of information, visits of technical experts and joint international research projects.

Efforts to enhance research and development (R and D) activity in Canada continued in 1981. Most significantly, the government announced its intention to raise R and D expenditures to 1.5 per cent of GNP by 1985 and to find ways of complementing domestic R and D programs with international action. Progress was achieved in promoting joint activities with a number of countries including the USA, France, Japan and Germany. Canada held major scientific meetings with some of these countries. Bilateral scientific and Arctic exchanges with the Soviet Union continue to be suspended however.

Canada was active in a variety of international organizations concerned with science and technology, such as the OECD Committee on Science and Technology Policy, the NATO Science Committee, the Senior Advisers on Science and Technology of the ECE, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis and the Commonwealth Science Council. Canada was active in