

Another important event was the first session of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) regional administrative broadcasting conference on AM broadcasting that will develop a plan for all the AM broadcasting stations in the Western Hemisphere. The second and final session of this conference will take place in late 1981.

### **Investment, intellectual property and competition policy**

Canada's interest and active involvement in multilateral consideration of foreign investment issues continued throughout the year. Within the OECD framework, efforts were devoted to identifying incentives and disincentives to investment, with particular emphasis on international elements. Future work will concentrate on assessing the economic relevance of these incentives and disincentives. In the UN, negotiations on a code of conduct for transnational corporations intensified and a complete text is expected in 1981.

On the domestic side, two Canadian moves on investment issues sparked international interest. The first was the announcement that Canada intends to strengthen the mandate of the Foreign Investment Review Agency (FIRA) to include, *inter alia*, performance reviews of large foreign firms. The second was the Canadianization measures contained in the NEP. In both bilateral and multilateral forums, Canada made clear that it remained committed to the desirability of applying "national treatment", but that its high levels of foreign ownership required the introduction of certain special measures.

In the field of intellectual property, work continued on the revision of the *Paris convention for the protection of industrial property*, which is the main international legislative instrument regulating industrial property rights such as patents and trademarks. Little progress was made on this revision during a diplomatic conference in Geneva in February 1980, and negotiations are scheduled to resume in Nairobi in September 1981.

In the field of competition policy, the UNCTAD conference on restrictive business practices (RBPs) adopted a set of voluntary principles and rules to control abuses resulting from RBPs having adverse effects on international trade. The successful conclusion of this conference and the subsequent adoption of the rules by the UN General Assembly mark the first time that broad international agreement has been reached on a set of

guidelines to control RBPs. These guidelines are very much in line with Canada's objectives in this area. Committed to a domestic competition policy and faced with extensive foreign ownership, this country has consistently supported responsible efforts to achieve some degree of international control over RBPs that would supplement national laws. Canada also continued to play an active role at the OECD to promote inter-governmental co-operation in the field of competition policy.

Within the context of the federal government's strategy for industrial and economic development, the department has sought to ensure that international considerations were fully and effectively taken into account in the development of new domestic industrial policies and programs. Procedures for liaison with the Canadian business community were reviewed and adjusted in 1980 with a view to providing businesses with a contact point in the department and encouraging the interchange of policy information and co-operative endeavours with businesses and business organizations.

### **Export financing policy**

Canada and the other members of the OECD (except Iceland and Turkey) continued to adhere to the informal Arrangement on Export Credits. Canada took part in continuing consultations on this arrangement with a view to reducing the subsidy element in officially supported export credits. Although these negotiations and discussions of this question at the Venice Summit indicated a broad desire to achieve progress, no significant revisions to the arrangement had been agreed to at year's end.

During the year, Canada signed foreign investment insurance agreements with Haiti and Guyana, designed to provide a procedural framework for solving problems of foreign investment insurance. These brought to 30 the number of agreements of this sort between Canada and other countries. By the end of the year, discussions on similar agreements were under way with another 17 states.

Canada participated in meetings of the Paris Club, the *ad hoc* group that brings states threatened with default on their external debt payments together with their official creditors to discuss the most effective means of ensuring repayment. Canada also participated in the working party of the OECD consultative group on Turkey, which rescheduled that country's debt for the third consecutive year.