

December 1986, to begin administrative reform in accordance with the recommendations of the follow-up committee. It also agreed to set aside up to 30 per cent of its program budget to finance activities of its component institutions. The direction that the ACCT will take once its reform is completed, and the duties and resources that it might receive, will depend on the outcome of this reform process and the evaluation made of it by the Heads of State and Government in Quebec City.

The Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sport of French-Speaking Countries (CONFESJES) and the Conference of Education Ministers (CONFEMEN) met at Burkina Faso and Gabon respectively during the year. After more than two years of uncertainty over their secretariats, these bodies regained their former vitality and broadened their programs considerably. In the CONFESJES, progress was made on the project to create the Francophone Games, which might be submitted at the end of the Quebec City Summit. The meeting of the CONFESJES Board took place in Ottawa in June 1987. Moncton and Quebec City were to be the sites of the CONFESJES ministerial session shortly after the Quebec City Summit in September.

The CONFEMEN adopted a proposal to create an international Francophone Baccalaureate as an experiment to face future challenges. New Brunswick was host for the major meeting of national representatives to this conference in February 1986.

## Energy

Unstable world oil markets marked the energy scene in 1986-87, with prices falling almost two thirds in the first six months of calendar year 1986. While prices recovered somewhat late in the year, continuing uncertainty gave cause for review of policies affecting the Canadian oil and gas industry. The government maintained its fundamental commitment to market-based energy policies, but took steps to lighten the financial burden on the industry, including abolishing the Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax, effective October 1986.

The Sectoral Advisory Group of International Trade on Energy had its inaugural meeting in September and met four times subsequently to provide advice to the Minister for International Trade on multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations.

Canada was active in the International Energy Agency (IEA), particularly in analysis of the implications of lower oil prices and the Chernobyl nuclear accident. The IEA Governing Board met in April 1986 and concluded that "while a prolonged period of relatively low oil prices might intensify longstanding concerns about long term energy supply security and the possibility of tighter energy markets in the future, there is no need at present for new international action by member countries in the area of energy policy, although some member countries may decide that internal adjustments are required for regional, sectoral or other national reasons". The Governing Board met four times in late 1986 and early 1987 to prepare for an IEA Ministerial Meeting in 1987. The IEA Executive Director visited Canada twice, in May 1986 and March 1987, and the Deputy Executive Director visited in September 1986.

The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources visited Vienna for the IAEA meeting in September, and for bilateral consultations in Washington in December, Los Angeles and Mexico City in January, and Caracas in February. Visits from his counterparts included Mexican Secretary of Energy Del Mazo in July, New Zealand Energy Minister Tizard in August, and Burmese Minister of Energy U Sein Tun in December.

Bilateral energy consultations at the official level were held with France in May, United States in June and February, Venezuela in October and Mexico in November. Several senior energy officials visited Canada in 1986-87, including the President of the Japan National Oil Company in May, the President of the Chinese National Offshore Oil Corporation and President of the Chinese National Oil Development Corporation in June, and the Deputy Minister of Energy of New Zealand in August.

Petro Canada International Assistance Corporation (PCIAC) undertook hydrocarbon exploration and technical assistance projects in several countries, including Ghana, Madagascar, Morocco, Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania, Guinea, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Nepal, Burma, Sri Lanka, Costa Rica, Barbados, Jamaica, Jordan, and Haiti. Total expenditures in the PCIAC reporting period (calendar year 1986) amounted to \$57.8 million.

## Nuclear questions

The past year was overshadowed by the tragic nuclear accident on April 26, 1986, at Chernobyl in the Soviet Union. The accident generated near-global concern about the safety of nuclear power. Canada strongly supported follow-up to Chernobyl under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In particular, Canada joined in the drafting of two international conventions on early notification and mutual assistance in case of nuclear emergencies or accidents and signed these conventions in Vienna at the close of last September's Special Session of the IAEA General Conference on nuclear safety. Canada also participated in various multilateral nuclear activities involving the IAEA, the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency and the UN Conference on the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

Bilaterally, a nuclear co-operation agreement between Canada and Turkey came into force, an agreement with Colombia was signed and discussions were held on an agreement with Switzerland. Canada continued to foster its close nuclear relationships with its nuclear partners, and held nuclear co-operation/non-proliferation consultations with a wide range of countries such as the United States, the Soviet Union, the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), Japan, Korea, and the United Kingdom. Canada also pursued discussions with its nuclear partners on the implementation of a scheme for generic application of Canada's prior consent right over nuclear transfers. Furthermore, based on a flexible and pragmatic approach to its nuclear policy, Canada concluded an agreement with the US and EURATOM providing for the transfer of legal rights and non-proliferation obligations on certain nuclear material.