

inflation and unemployment caused increasing concern, as they did elsewhere in the world. Despite cutbacks at home, Canada continued to give high priority to development assistance and, at the UN Conference on Least Developed Countries in Paris, the Prime Minister announced our intention to allocate .15 per cent of gross national product to assistance for the poorest countries in the coming years. Canada also passed legislation creating Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation, a Crown corporation authorized to spend up to \$250 million in the next five years to help developing countries find and develop new sources of hydrocarbons. Canada also concluded a number of science-related agreements with developing countries including Mexico, Brazil and China.

In January, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan announced that the Commonwealth Caribbean would have priority in Canadian foreign policy and, in July, Canada associated itself with the USA, Mexico and Venezuela in the Caribbean Basin initiative. The House of Commons established a sub-committee on Canada's relations with the Caribbean and Latin America.

Canadian relations with some countries of the Middle East were strengthened by federal and provincial ministerial visits. When King Hussein of Jordan visited Ottawa in October, Canada announced that it would open an embassy in Amman in 1982. Canada lifted the 1980 sanctions against Iran but did not reassign Canadian personnel to the Tehran embassy.

As a member of the Western Contact Group, Canada took an active part in renewed negotiations to end South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia. Canada's growing commercial ties with other African countries were enhanced by the Prime Minister's visits to Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Kenya and by those of Energy Minister Marc Lalonde and International Trade Minister Ed Lumley. Minister Pierre De Bané, in his capacity as Adviser on Francophone Affairs, visited many French-speaking countries in Africa. Reciprocal visits to Asian and Pacific countries strengthened trade relations there and with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Responsibility for immigration programs was transferred to the Department of External Affairs on April 1, bringing with it increased participation in programs concerning refugees, family-reunification and the self-exiled. These human rights considerations have been a significant element in the formulation of Canadian foreign policy, and Canadian delegates to international conferences have worked towards greater protection of human rights.

As in the past, the Department's 118 embassies, high commissions and consulates abroad represented and defended Canadian interests in their host countries and offered a range of consular services to Canadians traveling or living abroad. They also promoted an image of Canada as a dynamic, bilingual and multicultural country capable of high technology. There was growing attention to international communications policy, especially trans-boundary data flow and increased funds for Canadian space programs,