

concerned with preparing the Canadian delegations to take part in the Intergovernmental Working Groups. They will be considering the proposals produced as a result of these Working Group meetings or by the Conference secretariat in preparation for the Conference itself in June.

Another important aspect of the Stockholm Conference is the set of arrangements which have been made — at the international level and in many of the participating countries — to facilitate the expression of views by interested members of the general public. A limited number of representatives from recognized international organizations concerned with the environment, such as the World Wildlife Federation and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, will be able to attend the Conference sessions and in some circumstances to make statements, though not to participate generally in the debates.

In Canada, an extra dimension is added through the interest of provincial governments in environmental questions. To meet this need, a federal-provincial committee has been established by ministers to permit an exchange of views on the matters covered by the Conference agenda. A companion to it, a national

preparatory committee, which consists of the federal-provincial group plus representatives of about 20 nation-wide organizations, has been formed. It will devote itself, in the first place, to revising and expanding the report entitled *Canada and the World Environment*, which has been submitted to the Conference but is so far still in provisional form. Later, this committee will be given the opportunity to express its views on the final action proposals to go before the Conference and will thus contribute to the formulation of the Canadian position on them.

This account has been chiefly concerned with a description of the preparations for the Conference and indications of what it is hoped will be achieved. Perhaps a word of warning is in order as to what it will not do. There can be no thought of a world police force for the environment or even of a benevolent dictatorship. Increased understanding of the problems, a firm will to co-operate in their solution and improved co-ordination of international and national efforts to that end must be the aims of the Conference. *Dr. Burwash is Deputy Director, Scientific Relations and Environmental Problems Division, Department of External Affairs.*

## ...The Accents of Global Crisis

Maurice Strong is a short, deceptively mild-looking man who seems to be continually on the offensive. He speaks the language of crisis.

While he was head of Canada's foreign aid program for four years after a swift rise to the top in the realm of Canadian corporate business, he applied himself with unrelenting zeal to the question of narrowing the dangerous gap between the industrialized donor states and the large group of less-developed recipient nations. Narrowing that gap, he argued, was vital to the peace of the world — more important to global survival than the obvious political differences among rival blocs.

In his new role as secretary-general of next June's United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Mr. Strong is still talking — some say preaching — about global survival. Both the industrialized and the less-developed

states, he says, need to realize that coping with the environmental crisis is a global battle.

Visiting Ottawa for a session of the Conference's Intergovernmental Working Group on Marine Pollution, Mr. Strong warned the delegates: "... Degradation of our oceans and seas represents a threat to man's life and well-being ... Marine pollution fits into the larger picture of the over-all global environmental challenge — it is part of the urgent need to defend the integrity of the biosphere. The world cannot wait. We dare not permit the problem to grow worse — perhaps irreversibly...."

What about the attitude of the less-developed nations? What about the suspicion of the poorer nations that they will be saddled with environmental controls to the detriment of their economic growth by industrialized states which have gone comfortably far beyond the economic takeoff point?