

regular biennial meeting in the Seychelles in November to plan the 1989 Commonwealth Summit and to review the current status of Commonwealth functional co-operation. Discussion focused on budgetary and administrative issues, and reflected continuing preoccupations common to other multilateral agencies to ensure that increasingly scarce resources are devoted to highest priority needs. Canada was also represented at the biennial meetings of the Commonwealth Youth Affairs Council in Western Samoa in May and the Commonwealth Science Council in Lagos in November.

Canadian participation in Commonwealth co-operation endeavours at the technical and non-governmental levels was exemplified by attendance at a wide range of conferences and meetings including, for example, the Expert Group on the Impact of Structural Adjustment on Women, and the Expert Group on Climate Change and Sea Level Rise. Canada was host for the eighth meeting of the Commonwealth Magistrates' Association, held in Ottawa in September. In addition, Canada continued to be an active contributor to, and participant in, the Commonwealth Foundation, which supports a wide variety of non-governmental Commonwealth activities, and whose chairman is the Hon. Robert Stanfield. During the Seoul Olympics, the City of Victoria was chosen as the site for the 1994 Commonwealth Games.

La Francophonie

During the past year, international Francophone co-operation continued to be the subject of considerable activity, resulting from initiatives adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the Quebec City Summit of September 1987, and from the preparations for the third Francophone Summit, to be held in Dakar from May 24 to 26, 1989 — the first time it takes place in Africa. The Follow-up Committee, chaired by Canada, has met more than 20 times since October 1987 to co-ordinate execution of the decisions made during the last summit, to outline programs and priorities, and to consider the future of Francophone co-operation and the body of government and non-government institutions within which it operates.

In accordance with proposals put forth at the Quebec City Summit, a number of events took place during the past year. One of the most noteworthy was the establishment in Canada of the TV-5 television network, which in coming months may be extended to cover all of North America, the West Indies and, eventually, Africa.

The first meeting of the steering committee for the Energy Institute of Countries Using French as a Common Language, headquartered in Quebec City, was held to establish a general programming policy for the next three years.

With the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the countries concerned, the process of establishing the International Consortium for Distance Learning in French was completed.

The Conference of Justice Ministers of the Francophone Countries, held in Paris early in the year, will enable the 41 participating countries to embark on a new phase of co-operation in training and in the exchange of legal and judicial information.

The Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (ACCT), the central organ of La Francophonie directly

involved in considering the changes that will be brought about by the Single European Market of 1992, held a symposium in Franceville, Gabon, to discuss complementary aspects of the European and Francophone communities. Canada will serve as host for the ACCT in November and December of 1989; the Special Development Program is to meet in Moncton, the Board of Directors in Quebec City, and the General Conference in Ottawa.

Among the institutions of La Francophonie, the ministerial conferences on youth and sports (CONFESJES) and education (CONFEMEN) met in Chad and Burundi respectively. In the CONFESJES, the first holding of the Francophone Games, a major event to be held in Morocco from July 8 to 22, 1989, promises to attract nearly all the member countries of La Francophonie.

Canada continues to become more involved in all the non-governmental Francophone organizations, both national and international.

Human rights and social affairs

The promotion of human rights is a high priority of the government and an integral element of Canadian foreign policy. In 1988 Canada was elected to membership in the UN Commission on Human Rights (CHR), thereby returning to that body as a full member in 1989 after attending in an observer capacity for the previous four years. Membership in the Commission, which enables Canada to co-sponsor and to table resolutions, will make possible an active role in items in which Canada is particularly interested; these include international indigenous issues, freedom of religion, mass exoduses and human rights, enhancement of treaty-based monitoring bodies, freedom of expression, and advisory services in the field of human rights. Even as an observer, however, Canada continued to be active during 1988 in the Commission and in other UN bodies. Of special note was the substantial work in progress in the area of standard-setting, where Canada actively participated in endeavouring to finalize the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and to work towards completing a draft declaration regarding indigenous or aboriginal populations and updating ILO convention 107 on indigenous and tribal populations.

A priority for Canada has been to ensure that multilateral human rights activities can be pursued effectively and rapidly through the United Nations. To this end, Canada continued to promote the UN Advisory Services Fund as a potentially catalytic service that could strengthen the institutional mechanisms in support of human rights throughout the world. In 1988, an initial project was developed from Canada's contribution to the fund, in order to investigate the feasibility of the new Banjul Centre for Human Rights. Canada also continued to pursue, within the United Nations framework, ways and means of promoting greater awareness of human rights through the creation of a world information campaign, implemented by the UN Centre for Human Rights in Geneva and the UN Department of Public Information in New York. As part of the events in 1988 celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Canada drafted and sponsored a resolution at the UN General Assembly calling for a world program of action to implement the provisions of the declaration. At the ceremony held in connection with the 40th anniversary, Professor John