

3- ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

This subject area was not dealt with separately in the 1970 Summary but rather formed part of the discussion on developments respecting the Law of the Sea and marine pollution. International and domestic activity in the field of environmental law has intensified considerably in the period since 1970, in particular in connection with the preparation for the UN Conference on the Human Environment, which took place in Stockholm in June this year. The pace of activity continues to grow as increased attention is given to environmental considerations in the UN Seabed Committee in preparation for the forthcoming Law of the Sea Conference and in the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) in preparation for the 1973 IMCO Conference on Marine Pollution and in other UN agencies and intergovernmental bodies such as the NATO Committee on the Challenges to Modern Society and the OECD Environmental Committee.

Canadian participation within this framework has inter alia focused on the need for the development of international environmental law. The Declaration on the Human Environment adopted by the Stockholm Conference embodies legal principles relating to state responsibility in respect of activities causing extra-territorial damage. These principles are the result of proposals put forward by Canada at the Intergovernmental Working Group responsible for the drafting of the Declaration. At the Stockholm Conference the endorsement of a body of principles on the preservation of the Marine environment and the prevention of marine pollution were the result of the position first initiated by Canada in the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWGMP), which had been given the responsibility of preparing action proposals on marine pollution. In this area Canada has emphasized