

priorities on preparations for the second special session were: to encourage the continuation of the SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) process; to promote the realization of a multilateral comprehensive test-ban treaty; to assist in the preparation of a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons and on their destruction; to promote the evolution of an effective non-proliferation regime based on the non-proliferation treaty; and to participate in negotiations to limit and reduce conventional forces.

"Canada is committed to breaking the pattern of madness which spiralling rearmament represents, and these priorities will guide our endeavours to fulfil this commitment," said Mr. MacGuigan.

Speaking on human rights and massive exodus, the minister noted that Canada welcomed the adoption of its proposal to appoint a Special Rapporteur. He said he hoped that the role would lead to a report that would provide "insights into how the United Nations organizations and member states could together prevent refugee situations from reaching existing proportions".

Assistance to Third World

Rising prices and diminishing supply of conventional petroleum reserves have had a major impact on the world especially on the developing countries, said Mr. MacGuigan. He added that the Canadian government agrees that a high priority should be given to international action to help developing nations with their energy needs. For this reason, he said, Canada supports the expansion of World Bank energy lending, through a new energy affiliate, if feasible, to assist developing countries in their energy programs.

Canada has responded to the energy needs of developing countries by creating Petro-Canada International, a development assistance arm of its national oil

company. The new agency will help oil-importing countries to mobilize their own energy resources, particularly hydrocarbons.

"Just as Canada's economic structure and expertise favour development assistance in the energy area, so we also intend to make a major contribution to helping improve agricultural production in developing countries," said Mr. MacGuigan.

In the area of trade, the minister announced that Canada would devote .15 per cent of its gross national product to official development assistance for the least developed countries in the coming years. Mr. MacGuigan reiterated that Canada would increase its official development assistance to ensure that it would soon reach .5 per cent of the GNP as part of an effort to reach .7 per cent by the end of the decade.

North-South problems

The minister also spoke to the assembly of North-South issues including the upcoming Summit at Cancun, Mexico which he said he hoped would be a catalyst to global negotiations.

"Within Canada during the past year, we have taken a number of steps to enable us to play a more active and constructive role in international co-operation in these vital areas," said Mr. MacGuigan.

The Parliamentary Task Force on North-South Relations recently tabled a major report in the Canadian House of Commons advocating that Canada continue to play an active North-South role, based on the principles of mutual benefit and humanitarianism. The report also made recommendations relating to energy, finance, trade, food and development assistance. "Our government has been pleased with the broad support the report has received and with the increase in public awareness fostered by the work of the task force," the minister told the assembly.

In addition to the work of the task force, the Canadian government has also conducted a review of North-South policy. "We have affirmed a number of fundamental issues, including a recognition of interdependence, the need for harmonization of external and domestic policies, which have an impact on developing countries, the need to employ a variety of instruments to meet the needs of developing countries, and a greater integration of the South in the international economic system," said Mr. MacGuigan.

Refugee totals increased

The federal government has announced that it will increase the number of Eastern European and African refugees to be admitted to Canada in 1981.

The Departments of External Affairs and Employment and Immigration have agreed that Canada will increase its intake of Eastern European refugees by admitting a further 1,000 refugees from camps in Austria. In addition, the Canadian government will also increase by up to 200 the number of African refugees to be admitted this year.

The refugee situation in Austria to which Canada is responding is a reflection of the climate of uncertainty in Eastern Europe. The present outflow of refugees, mainly from Poland, has increased significantly and is well above levels of the past few years. This is causing difficulties in Austria where the majority of Polish refugees are living in overcrowded camps. Canada's action is intended to alleviate the burden on Austria which is the country of first asylum for these European refugees.

Teams sent

A Canadian immigration team was sent recently to Austria to help speed processing of applications for Eastern European refugees wanting to settle in Canada.

Under its 1981 refugee plan, Canada undertook to bring 4,000 refugees and self-exiled persons from Eastern Europe and 200 refugees from Africa as part of its global program to resettle up to 16,000 refugees from all parts of the world. The global plan includes within the 16,000 a reserve of 2,500 to be used for unforeseen emergencies. It is from this reserve that the additional allotments of 1,000 persons from Eastern Europe and 200 persons from Africa are being taken.

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan and the foreign ministers of France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Britain and the United States met in New York on September 24 to review the progress made in their search for an early settlement of the Namibian question. The ministers said that they had reached a point in their ongoing consultations where they had developed a timetable for further and final negotiation with the objective of implementing Security Council Resolution 435 in 1982. The five governments have also completed their initial consideration of possible constitutional principles for the Constituent Assembly. The ministers said that they believed that these proposals would be "likely to secure the confidence of all concerned". They also announced plans to discuss the proposed constitutional principles, as well as, a timetable and approach to other remaining issues.