

congress was convened in Geneva on the originally-scheduled dates. In the event, the congress proceeded without incident and Canada participated actively in its affairs.

Habitat — UN Conference on Human Settlements

Planning proceeded on schedule during the year with the preparations for *Habitat* — the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, which is to take place in Vancouver, B.C., from May 31 to June 11, 1976.

When Canada's offer to act as host to the conference was accepted by the twenty-seventh UN General Assembly in 1972, two secretariats were created by the Federal Government to handle the Canadian end of the arrangements. These were the "Host Secretariat", set up in the Department of External Affairs, and the "Participation Secretariat", set up in the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs. In October 1975, the responsibilities of both secretariats were transferred to a new body, the Canadian *Habitat* Secretariat, with J. W. MacNeill as Commissioner-General. Mr. MacNeill had been previously involved with preparations for the conference as Secretary to the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs.

Close liaison was maintained with the UN *Habitat* Secretariat in New York, headed by Enrique Penalosa. The UN Preparatory Committee for *Habitat*, on which Canada is represented, met twice during the year, in January and August.

In June and July, Canada, as host country, was represented at regional preparatory meetings of *Habitat* held in Tehran, Cairo, Geneva and Caracas.

In September, a meeting of *ad hoc* intergovernmental working groups in Geneva achieved considerable progress in discussing the draft declaration of principles to be adopted by the conference, and in considering the forms of international action that the conference might recommend.

Progress was also made in preparing the extensive facilities to be provided in Vancouver for the conference. Work proceeded with the arrangements in the downtown area for a project presentation centre, a visitor's centre and a media centre to provide facilities for world-wide coverage.

Also begun was the renovation of Jericho Beach, a former military base in the Point Grey area of Vancouver. This was planned as the

centre of activities of the "Habitat Forum", a conference of national and international non-governmental organizations scheduled to take place at the same time as the official *Habitat* conference.

Efforts to interest and assist participating countries in the preparation of audio-visual presentations of human-settlements projects met with a good response. By the year's end, production was under way of more than 200 such presentations in over 100 countries — contributions to an audio-visual program unique in UN conference history.

In the fall of the year a series of symposiums and public meetings was held across Canada to stimulate public consideration of the themes of *Habitat* and to contribute to formulating the Canadian Government's position on human-settlements issues.

UN administrative matters

The biennial budget of the United Nations for 1976-77 was set at \$745,813,800, an increase of some \$130 million. Like most governmental and intergovernmental institutions, the UN has been severely affected by inflation and currency instability and has had to indulge in more than ordinary budgetary restraint. Canada, as one of the major contributors to both the assessed and voluntary aspects of the UN's budget, played an active role in efforts to maintain the UN's financial obligations within realistic boundaries. At the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, Canada supported a major effort to focus attention on basic financial problems of the organization. As a result, a broadly representative intersessional body will be established to recommend measures to bring about a comprehensive solution to the organization's financial difficulties.

Canadian financial contributions to the UN system

Canada's contributions to the UN family of organizations fall into three categories: (a) annual assessments of the organization and its Specialized Agencies under regular budgets (Canada is assessed at 3.18 per cent, which in 1975 amounted to \$8,838,000 for the United Nations regular budget and \$11,846,000 for the regular budgets of the Specialized Agencies, and makes Canada the ninth-largest contributor among the 144 member states); (b)