

meeting, the Canadian federal and provincial governments also agreed to make a 50 per cent reduction in national sulphuric emission levels within the same time frame.

At the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Canada was active in the development of OECD programs on hazardous waste management, administrative and legislative aspects of chemicals control (particularly trade in hazardous chemicals, pharmaceuticals and pesticides), environmental policies for the development of nuclear and other energy systems, environmental impact assessment and developmental assistance, and the interdependence of environmental and economic policies.

The environmental sector continued to have importance in Canada's aid programs, particularly in the field of desertification and deforestation, and through various UNEP programs. A Canadian delegation, which included Canadian Indian and Inuit members, participated in the biennial conference of parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, held in Botswana. Canada was active in several other international organizations whose work is concerned with environmental problems, notably the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the UN Commission on Human Settlements (Habitat).

Environment law

It was in 1983 that work really began on implementation of the program for the development and periodic review of environment law, drawn up by a special meeting in Montevideo in 1981, which had been called as a result of a Canadian initiative. The Montevideo program is an agenda for development of environment law as part of the United Nations System-Wide Medium-Term Environment Program (1984-1989). It provides for development of guidelines, principles or international agreements on 11 subjects, grouped in two categories of priorities, such as the protection of the marine environment against land-based pollution (the working group of which is chaired by Canada), the development of a global framework convention on the protection of the ozone layer (a draft convention for which was accepted almost in its entirety in 1983-84), a protocol on the control of chlorofluorocarbons, the ecologically rational management of hazardous wastes, the exchange of information on potentially harmful chemicals (in particular pesticides) in international trade, and a provisional notification scheme for banned or severely restricted chemical substances.

In addition to its participation in the work of UNEP, Canada contributed to the development of environment law under the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter. Thus the eighth Consultative Meeting of the Contracting Parties agreed that no contracting party would bury highly radioactive wastes on the seabed before a control mechanism had been set up under the Convention.

Energy

There was a continued decline in world demand for oil as a result of structural factors, and the demand for energy and oil did not immediately respond to the beginnings of economic recovery. The decline in demand was generally smaller than in 1982 and, by the end of 1983, there were signs of a slight

increase in demand, at least among countries recovering economically. Following the OPEC London Agreement in March 1983, world oil prices began a period of stability, while prices for other energy commodities, particularly coal and natural gas, faced strong downward pressures.

Canada was active in many international energy-related meetings, particularly at the International Energy Agency (IEA), where energy security was a major topic during 1983. The IEA ministerial meeting on May 8, 1983, and subsequent OECD meetings resulted in agreement on conclusions to a study of projected OECD energy requirements and dependence on imports to the end of the century. The study concluded that dependence on imported oil, though reduced, remains high in many OECD countries and this remains the major risk to their energy security. IEA-OECD countries also agreed to strengthen policies aimed at increased energy efficiency, improved conservation measures and rapid development on an economic basis of indigenous OECD energy resources. They agreed that no OECD country should be unduly dependent on single sources of non-OECD gas supplies.

IEA Executive Director Ulf Lantzke visited Ottawa in September and visits of other IEA officials took place throughout the year. At the Williamsburg Economic Summit in May Canada took the initiative in making energy a priority. Summit country leaders agreed that more predictability and less volatility in oil prices would be helpful to world economic prospects.

Sharing the view that development of local energy resources is an important element of the industrialization process of developing countries, Canada took part in many meetings dealing with energy issues within the UN framework. The most important was the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy in April 1983.

Canada engaged in bilateral energy discussions with a number of countries. The Energy Consultative Mechanism, which serves as the main forum for exchange of views on bilateral and international energy matters between senior Canadian and US officials, met in Ottawa in September 1983 and again in February 1984. The main topic was the state of the natural gas trade relationship, including Canadian gas export pricing policies and US gas import policies. The Canadian and US energy ministers met in April to discuss bilateral energy issues. The Canadian minister also visited Japan, Korea, France, Norway and the United Kingdom for discussions on energy-related issues. Mexican and Canadian energy ministers took part in the Canada-Mexico ministerial committee meetings in Ottawa in November. The Venezuelan energy minister visited Ottawa after the OPEC ministerial meeting in December. Senior-level talks on energy matters also took place with Japan during the September 1983 meeting of the Canada-Japan Joint Economic Committee held at Mont Ste. Marie, Quebec.

The Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation (PCIAC) was allocated \$55 million of Canada's official development assistance funds for 1983-84 for energy development projects. It expanded its involvement in the Caribbean and Africa, including Haiti, Gambia, Ghana and Morocco. Projects were also undertaken in Thailand and the Philippines. Early in 1984, agreements were signed with Jamaica and Sri Lanka for a second phase of PCIAC's project in those countries.