

For the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, 1986 was a notable year in many respects. The International Civil Aviation Organization approved a work program to develop an international legal convention to counter acts of terrorism in airports. The International Labour Organization adopted a convention on the controlled use of asbestos. Both these achievements were the result of Canadian initiatives, supported by many countries with which Canada co-operates closely in the United Nations context. Such co-operation was also productive in other UN forums, for example in FAO and WHO, in the battle against famine in Africa and in the campaign to control the AIDS epidemic. Other aspects of Canada's activities at the UN are described elsewhere in this Chapter.

## The Commonwealth

The Commonwealth has been responding to challenges in three major areas. First, it has led the international effort to end *apartheid* in South Africa; second, it serves as a catalyst in North-South co-operation to achieve a more equitable distribution of the world's resources; and third, it acts directly to help develop the smallest and poorest of its member countries.

The most important Commonwealth meeting of the past year dealt with Southern Africa. It was the Commonwealth Heads of Government Review Meeting which took place in London on August 3-4, 1986. Seven heads of Commonwealth governments met to review the Report of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on Southern Africa. The creation of the EPG to promote political dialogue aimed at equitable power sharing in South Africa and the identification of measures to be taken by Commonwealth governments with respect to South Africa, were set out in the Commonwealth Accord on Southern Africa, adopted at the Nassau Heads of Government Meeting in October 1985. The EPG reported a total unwillingness by the South African authorities to enter a substantive dialogue. The Review Meeting therefore considered what further measures might be taken to impress on the South African government the urgency of dismantling *apartheid*. The leaders who met in London were the President of Zambia and the Prime Ministers of Australia, The Bahamas, Canada, India, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe. The Prime Minister of Canada played a leading role in the meeting at a time when there were strains within the Commonwealth because of policy differences on the likely effectiveness of measures to be taken in response to South Africa's intransigence. Six of the seven Heads of Government were able to agree to a full package of additional measures. All agreed, however, on the objective of dismantling *apartheid* and establishing a non-racial and representative government in South Africa.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government biennial meeting remains the centrepiece for all Commonwealth intergovernmental consultations. It gives particular attention to issues affecting international development. Additionally, each year Commonwealth finance ministers meet to discuss world economic problems with a special focus on how these may be affecting the flow of financial resources and trade income to the member developing

countries. In their September 1986 meeting in St. Lucia, they reviewed the economic and trade issues of general importance to Commonwealth countries and their relations with the World Bank and the IMF.

Commonwealth programs are directed to assisting the developing member countries and especially the smallest and poorest. Canada continues to be a major supporter of various Commonwealth organizations, contributing almost \$30 million in the fiscal year 1986-87. Canada is the largest contributor to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, the vehicle for providing technical assistance under multilateral Commonwealth auspices. Canada also provides direct bilateral aid to 44 Commonwealth countries.

Canada is also active in Commonwealth consultations on promoting functional co-operation within the Commonwealth. In 1986, Canadian ministers participated in Commonwealth meetings of ministers responsible for health and law. The health ministers discussed plans to mobilize skill in the field of health management, the exchange of professional personnel working on tropical diseases and improved co-operation between aid agencies and health ministries. The law ministers discussed inter-country investigations of criminal acts, paying particular attention to commercial crime. Canadian participation in Commonwealth co-operation at the technical or non-governmental level was exemplified by Canada's being host to the seventh technical conference of the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators, which was held in Ottawa in August 1986. Canada was also host in Montreal in September 1986 to the Seventh Commonwealth Conference of Postal Administrators.

## La Francophonie

During the year there was an exceptional amount of multilateral Francophone co-operation, stemming from the desire expressed by the Heads of State and Government at the first Paris Summit to generate a dynamic form of interchange and solidarity in the political, economic and co-operation areas. This atmosphere was furthered by the preparations for the second Summit, held in Quebec City from September 2 to 4, 1987, and by the interest this generated in multilateral and non-governmental institutions in Canada and abroad.

Canada was determined to participate on a level commensurate with its resources, and has not hesitated to become further involved in the activities of the French-speaking world community, which it considers to be an exceptional framework for co-operation and dialogue and an excellent vehicle for promoting the French fact in Canada. Its expenditures for *La Francophonie* have risen from \$9 to \$21 million since the first Summit was held.

In addition, the follow-up committee in charge of implementing the decisions reached at the Paris Summit, of which Canada is a member, undertook to give substance to the guidelines set in Paris in regard to energy, culture and communications, language industries, scientific information and technical development.

Among the institutions of *La Francophonie*, the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (ACCT) was authorized, at its Extraordinary General Conference in