

In the Middle East, instability remained a way of life. Amid executions and assassinations, Iran continued its war with Iraq despite mediation efforts. There were renewed hostilities in Lebanon. Israel attacked Iraq's nuclear reactor in June and, in Egypt in October, President Sadat's assassination added to the uncertainties. The Saudi proposal for a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict resulted only in inconclusive discussion and the extension of Israeli law to the Golan Heights was strongly opposed by Canada and other nations.

In Africa, the Western Contact Group, which includes Canada, renewed negotiations aimed at ending South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia. There were some encouraging moves from the Organization of African Unity which proclaimed a charter of rights for its member countries and sent a peace force to Chad. Morocco agreed to a referendum in the Western Sahara and there were talks on confederation between Senegal and Gambia. There was another coup d'état in the Central African Republic. In Uganda, life returned to normal after President Obote assumed power in December 1980.

At the United Nations, the law of the sea negotiations, which had progressed so well in 1980, marked time in 1981 as the new USA Administration reviewed the results. However, the conference was scheduled to complete its work during the spring of 1982 with a convention open for signature in Caracas in the fall of 1982. Other important developments at the United Nations included widespread support for the International Year of Disabled Persons, the attribution of the Nobel Peace Prize to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the election, in December, of Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru to succeed Mr. Kurt Waldheim as UN Secretary-General.

Canada

Recession dominated the Canadian scene, as it did elsewhere in the world. It was the year of the Summits, and Prime Minister Trudeau travelled widely to lay the groundwork for the Economic Summit in Ottawa and the North-South Summit in Cancun. As Ottawa chairman, he had a special responsibility for the smooth running of a conference at which the majority of leaders would meet in person for the first time. The relatively stable oil market allowed the leaders to concentrate on the problems of stagflation and North-South relations but no satisfactory solutions emerged, either at Ottawa or at Cancun. American doubts that global negotiations would solve the interwoven problems of the developed and developing world resulted in an agreement to continue discussions but without any firm timetable.

Canada's most important bilateral relations continued to be with the USA. The perennial issues of energy, investment and environment headed the list, with the National Energy Program and acid rain the most discussed problems.

Domestically, Canadians were preoccupied with a resolution of the federal/provincial issues of patriating the Constitution, while rising