

In the field of conservation, Canada and the USA signed a Protocol amending the 1916 Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds in Canada and the USA and negotiated the text of an Agreement for the Conservation of Migratory Caribou and their Habitat. The latter would provide for the taking of appropriate measures such as the conduct of national research programmes on caribou, relating inter alia to the conservation and management of the species, and the creation of a Board that would make recommendations to Parties on preservation and protection measures. The Protocol amending the 1916 Agreement grants to the competent Canadian authority the power to authorize the taking of migratory birds and the collection of their eggs by Indians and Inuit for their own nutritional and other essential needs during any period of the year.

The working group of experts on environmental law, established in 1977 by UNEP, met in March and October 1979 to study the legal aspects of offshore mining and drilling carried out within the limits of national jurisdiction, with a view to developing guidelines, for use by governments, relating to the protection and preservation of the marine environment from pollution and other environmental damage from offshore mining and drilling. The group agreed to a four-part study programme and, during 1979, completed its study of the first part dealing with the environmental impact assessment, including the need to notify and consult neighboring states when there is a risk of transfrontier pollution.

The WMO/UNEP group of government experts on the legal aspects of weather modification met in September 1979 and elaborated a series of draft provisions, for submission to the executive organs of the two organizations, on the legal aspects of weather modification, based on the results of an informal meeting of consultants in 1978. These provisions relate inter alia to the issues of state responsibility for extra-territorial weather modification and to duties regarding notification, consultation and exchange of information.

At IMCO, Canada participated actively in the work of the various committees, notably the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Maritime Safety Committee and the Legal Committee. With respect to the latter, a major portion of its work was directed to developing further draft articles for an eventual