
and other Middle East oil supplies, as well as strong upward pressures on prices, led Canada, together with other members of the International Energy Agency, to decide on March 2 to undertake corrective action to deal with the prospective global crude-oil shortfall of two million barrels in 1979. The 20 member countries have agreed to reduce their demands on world oil markets by such an amount, equal to about 5 per cent of their own expected consumption, through increased internal production, conversion to other fuels and by conservation. This will not only ease their own situations but will help the rest of the world, including developing countries, to meet their supply problems. This IEA decision should also contribute to the easing of pressures on international oil prices.

For the foreseeable future, Canada will need, both on its own and in co-operation with others, to make every effort to increase energy security by a range of measures, including careful management of our domestic energy resources, diversification of energy imports and active encouragement of efficient energy use in Canada. The Government is actively pursuing bilateral oil-supply arrangements with other countries, such as Mexico and Venezuela, which would enhance our longer-term energy security through diversity of supply. Petro-Canada would be expected to play an important intermediary role in implementing such arrangements.

The human dimension

Canada is deeply engaged in the quest for human rights around the world. We reject the argument that human rights are a purely domestic matter. All states, through their adherence to the Charter of the United Nations, have undertaken an obligation to protect and promote the fundamental rights of all persons within their borders. When this international obligation is not fulfilled, other states, including Canada, must concern themselves. During the past year, we made bilateral representations to a number of governments over reports of human-rights violations. The Canadian delegation to the UN Commission on Human Rights (of which a Canadian, Yvon Beaulne, is currently session chairman) is actively pursuing several human-rights initiatives, and in particular one on disappeared persons. Canada is urging action in the commission on situations of gross abuses of human rights wherever they occur.

The increase in the global refugee problem is of concern to Canada. We are strongly supporting the humanitarian efforts of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to obtain an adequate international response to the plight of refugees throughout the world. On the political level, Canada is seeking to focus attention on the interrelations between refugee outflows and human-rights violations within the countries concerned.

Progress in the area of family reunification during 1978 was steady. Canada continues to make representations to the U.S.S.R. and the countries of Eastern Europe regarding relatives of Canadian citizens who wish to be reunited with their families in Canada. Canada will seek to sustain this momentum in the period before the next CSCE meeting in Madrid in 1980. Family reunification is also a feature of our relations with China and Vietnam.

I must also mention that we are especially concerned for the protection and well-
