

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Canada is preparing its second report to the UN Committee of independent experts on the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The first report, tabled in January 1985, was well received and created a great deal of interest among committee members. Canada's second report will be tabled in January 1987 and will be a follow-up of the first, detailing the advancement made in the implementation of the Convention.

The Convention requires states party to the Convention to submit a national report every four years, and to take appropriate measures, including legislation, to achieve *de facto* equality between men and women and to ensure the full development and advancement of women in society.

In March 1986 at the meeting of the states party to the Convention in New York, Canada introduced an item to the agenda for an exchange of views on the question of reservations to the CEDAW Convention. The states will now prepare their views and present them to the Secretary General of the United Nations at the fall session of the General Assembly.

Third World Conference on Women

The Third World Conference on Women was held in July 1985 in Nairobi, Kenya to review and appraise the achievements of the UN Decade for Women (1976-85). Canada was among the top financial supporters of the Conference. In choosing our delegation we attempted to ensure that a wide segment of Canadian society be represented at Nairobi. The main achievement of the Conference was the adoption of the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000 by consensus.

Drug control

The international community now shares a common awareness of the serious problems associated with the drug trade. This concern surfaced at the Bonn Economic Summit and at a subsequent New York meeting of foreign ministers, as well as at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Nassau and at the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) foreign ministers' conference in Kuala Lumpur, where the Secretary of State announced a Canadian contribution of \$2 million to Pakistan and Thailand for crop substitution projects. Two important international initiatives, which Canada has strongly supported, were discussed at the February 1986 session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The first concerns the drafting of a new convention that will strengthen international measures combatting illicit drug trafficking, while the second concerns the convening of a ministerial conference on drug abuse control in June 1987 in Vienna. In scheduling this Conference, the UN General Assembly is seeking to strengthen the political will of member nations to combat the drug menace and generate universal action. Canada co-sponsored resolutions related to these initiatives at the 1985 UN General Assembly.

Criminal justice

The Department was represented in the Canadian delegation to the Seventh UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders held in Milan, August 25 - September 6, 1985. The 124 attending countries adopted some 30 resolutions and instruments by consensus. The Canadian delegation, led by the Solicitor General, played a constructive and

consensus-building role on many substantive issues of interest and was particularly involved in drafting and negotiating texts and delivering interventions on the following topics: justice for victims of crime and victims of abuse of power; narcotic drugs; terrorism; new guiding principles for crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development and a new international economic order; young offenders; and the independence of the judiciary.

International Youth Year

The United Nations designated 1985 as International Youth Year, with the themes of Participation, Development and Peace. During 1985-86 Canada participated at the fourth meeting of the UN Advisory Committee on International Youth Year in Vienna as an observer and contributed funds to the UN International Youth Year Trust Fund. During the course of the year, numerous events were organized by Canadian groups which attracted youth delegations from across Canada and around the world. In addition, some Canadian youth represented Canada at conferences, seminars and cultural gatherings outside of Canada. Two such major events were the Barcelona Youth Conference, which was attended by Canada's Minister of State for Youth, and the UN Youth Plenary which was held during the course of UNGA 40. The focus of the Year was, however, mainly on activities at the national and local level co-ordinated by the International Youth Year Secretariat within the Department of the Secretary of State. In addition to providing their own support through a system of grants to worthy NGOs undertaking youth projects and activities, the Secretary of State Department also provided other federal departments with a budget for funding activities of interest to them. The Department of External Affairs supported, among many, such worthy ventures as the International Indigenous Youth Conference, the International Youth Conference, the International Youth Year Conference on Law and the Issues for the Next Generation Conference.

Indigenous affairs

During the year, Canadian indigenous organizations continued to draw domestic and international attention to issues vital to their interests and those of other indigenous populations throughout the world. The Canadian government again sent a delegation to the fourth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, held in Geneva in July 1985. A number of Canadian indigenous organizations made representations to the Working Group as did the Government of Canada. The Group has begun work on standard setting with respect to indigenous groups.

At UNGA 40 Canada assisted in the drafting of a resolution which was adopted without vote, and led to the creation of a Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations. This important development is aimed at providing financial assistance to aboriginal people from the developing world to permit their participation at the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations. The Canadian government also provided assistance to Canadian aboriginal peoples who, with other Indigenous Survival International representatives, visited several European countries with a view to educating Europeans on the importance of the fur trade to the maintenance of the traditional aboriginal lifestyle.