

trilateral USA-UK-USSR talks on a comprehensive test ban, review conferences of the *Biological weapons convention* and the *Non-proliferation treaty* (NPT), and a reconvening of the special UN Weapons Conference. The Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction (MBFR) talks in Vienna continued.

The West welcomed the establishment, in Vienna also, of the Independent (Palme) Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues. In Canada, there were two meetings of the (Canadian) Consultative Group on Disarmament and Arms Control.

## **Terrorism**

The degree to which diplomatic personnel has tended to be sheltered from acts of violence has deteriorated rapidly in recent years. The taking of diplomats as hostages did not begin with the US embassy affair in Tehran. There had been previous incidents but none of that magnitude. Other serious acts in 1980 involving diplomatic personnel or property occurred in Bogotá, London and Tripoli.

In light of these developments, the world community has addressed the issue of the safety of diplomatic personnel, notably at the UN, where in 1980, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on the protection of diplomatic missions. Also, largely as the result of the Canadian initiative at the Bonn (1978) Economic Summit to propose joint measures against terrorism, both the Venice Economic Summit and the 1980 NATO ministerial meeting adopted declarations on terrorism.

## **THE HUMAN DIMENSION**

### **Refugees and human rights**

In 1980, the global refugee situation deteriorated significantly as the estimated number of refugees in many parts of the world rose to more than ten million. The situation in Indochina remained serious, and refugee flows to Pakistan and throughout Africa caused great concern as they assumed major proportions. Canada participated in international efforts to provide humanitarian relief to Kampuchians and contributed financially to refugee appeals on behalf of Somalia, Sudan, Cameroun, Pakistan and Indochina. In addition, Canada completed the resettlement of over 60,000 Indochinese refugees within its borders and co-operated in an international effort to resettle Cubans who had sought asylum in the Peruvian Embassy in Havana. At the UN, Canada actively supported efforts to develop internationally agreed upon approaches and principles to prevent future flows of refugees.

Canada pursued a number of objectives in the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1980, including UN recognition of the need to deal with the root causes of a massive exodus and of the possible linkage between such mass population flows and gross violations of human rights. Canada was a prime mover in a successful effort to have the Commission adopt, without a vote, a resolution along these lines. The resolution was then endorsed by the UN General Assembly in December. Canada

once again supported a resolution calling for the creation of a position of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and sought to enhance the good offices role of the UN Secretary-General in the resolution of situations involving serious human rights violations.

Canada signed, in July 1980, the UN *Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women*.

## **CANADA AND THE THIRD WORLD**

### **North-South questions**

The search by both developed and developing countries for reforms in the world's economic order took on a new urgency in 1980, in fair measure because the 1979 and subsequent oil price increases had hit the developing countries especially hard. Canada regarded the year 1980 as a period of intense preparation—to which it would make a major contribution—for the discussion of North-South issues at the United Nations, at the Mexico North-South Summit and at the Ottawa Economic Summit to be held in 1981.

The eleventh special session of the UN, held in August, produced a consensus on the International Development Strategy (IDS) for the third UN development decade, which was formally adopted at the later regular session of the General Assembly. However, both the special session and the regular session failed to reach a consensus on procedures or an agenda for the launching of global negotiations.

A major international achievement in efforts to improve North-South relations was the successful negotiation, in June 1980, of the Common Fund for Commodities. Significant also was the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) agreement on guidelines for the control of restrictive business practices in international trade and investment, later adopted as a resolution of the UN General Assembly.

With a primary focus on North-South issues and in preparation for the two Summits, the Prime Minister visited several countries in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America (some during a trip beginning at the end of 1980) for discussions with world leaders.

In Canada, a special parliamentary task force on North-South relations examined and made recommendations on present and future Canadian contributions to the resolution of North-South issues. The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced the establishment of a Futures Secretariat whose primary task, in concert with non-governmental organizations and other groups, would be to increase public awareness of international development and co-operation issues.

### **Support for international development**

Canada's commitment to official development assistance (ODA) remains strong. However, the ever greater needs of the oil-importing developing countries come at a time, especially evident in 1980, when the developed nations feel least able to offer significant new help because of their own economic difficulties.