

very active period that saw the Security Council deal with regional issues on four continents. Canada's Permanent Representative to the United Nations chaired the Security Council for the month of October.

The successful UN-supervised transition of Namibia from occupied territory through democratic elections to independence brought deserved praise and credit. Canada played a leading role in contributing military, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and electoral supervisory personnel to the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG).

Events in Central America have seen the UN move from its traditional peacekeeping role to that of active peacemaker. Canada contributed personnel to a military observation mission overseeing implementation of

the Central American regional peace plan and a supervision and observation mission monitoring the February 25, 1990, Nicaraguan elections. Canadian troops now serve with six UN peace-keeping operations worldwide.

The first Canadian to head a United Nations agency in 40 years, William O'Neill, was unanimously endorsed as Secretary General of the London-based International Maritime Organization and took up his post at the beginning of 1990. The past year saw an unusually heavy schedule of UN organization general conferences, in which Canada actively participated.

Noted Canadian environmentalist Maurice Strong was appointed to the post of Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in June 1992.

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## **B. THE COMMONWEALTH**

Canada's commitment to the Commonwealth continued. At the Kuala Lumpur Heads of Government meeting in October 1989, Canadian initiatives helped ensure vigorous action on Southern Africa, the adoption of a progressive declaration on the environment, and the launching of a study on

Commonwealth cooperation in the area of human rights. Canada is also taking part in the High Level Appraisal Group established at Kuala Lumpur to identify areas for future Commonwealth cooperation and to determine how it could be better equipped for this.