

Foreword

In this paper I have attempted to respond to the requests which were made to me:

- a) to review "the main challenges that faced Canada in preparing for Stockholm"
- b) to evaluate "the results of the Conference"
- c) to evaluate "the international environmental agenda as it appeared in 1972 and as it now appears in the lead-up to the 1992 UNCED in Rio."

It would be impossible to cover in any detail all the significant developments in each of these fields in the time and space available to me. I hope, however, that I have been able to provide a sufficiently focused review to respond to the requests made of me and that it will provide reliable and helpful guidance for those preparing for Brazil '92.

It was suggested that I should add some ideas and suggestions at the end which might serve to generate a discussion of some of the underlying themes and challenges in UNCED's agenda as we move toward 2000. I have done so. Some thoughts have been inspired by my talks with many colleagues. Some emerged as I reflected on the nearly 25 years during which "the environment" emerged as a major national and international issue. And some suggestions may seem unrealistic and impractical. The Seminar will separate the good from the bad.

In the time available to me I have carried out a review of the files of the Department of External Affairs covering the Stockholm Conference. I have had useful discussions with the Honourable Charles Caccia, P.C., M.P., Messrs. MacNeill and Runnals (IRPP), Mr. Beesley (EA), Dr. Munro, Dr. Brooks (IDRC), Messrs. Jim Bruce, Gary Vernon (ICOD), Green (CIDA) and Angell (EA) together with Mr. de Hoog, Mr. Small and several of their colleagues. I am grateful to them for their time and their help. This paper is a product of these many consultations, of my file search and my recollections of Stockholm, 19 years after. Any errors of commission or omission are entirely mine.

There is some repetition in moving from section to section. It was difficult to avoid since most of themes of the Stockholm Conference continued through the 1970's and 1980's into the 1990's.