

various non-governmental professional associations work toward forming closer relations among their members and furthering the interests of francophone countries, especially in the Third World. The first summit of heads of state and government of countries using French as a common language gave the international francophone community a real instrument of co-operation and interchange in the political, economic and co-operative fields. In this manner "la Francophonie", like the Commonwealth, is becoming a rallying point around which solutions to the major international problems may be sought. It provides Canada with an excellent framework for co-operation and dialogue with the industrialized countries, and with some of the poorest among the developing countries.

Belonging to "la Francophonie" is an excellent means of promoting the French fact in Canada by giving it an international dimension, and of strengthening Canadian unity by way of involving those provinces which have recognized French as an official language with the federal government.

21.3.3 Canada and the OECD

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was established in Paris in September 1961. It succeeded the Organization for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC) founded in 1948 by the countries of Western Europe to facilitate reconstruction of their war-shattered economies and to administer the Marshall Plan. In the OECD, Canada and the United States and later Japan, Australia and New Zealand joined with countries of Western Europe to form a major intergovernmental forum for consultation and co-operation among the industrialized nations.

The aim of the OECD is to facilitate the formulation of policy conducive to stability, balanced economic growth and social progress of both member and non-member countries. Over past years, the OECD has broadened its activities to include almost every aspect of economic and social policy in modern society.

The International Energy Agency (IEA), established within the framework of the OECD in 1974, plays a role in four main areas: emergency oil sharing, consultations on the oil market, promotion of the accelerated development of new sources of energy, and relations between oil-consuming and oil-producing countries. Another agency of the OECD, the Nuclear Energy Agency founded in 1972, has been involved in the co-ordination and exchange of views of the technical aspects of nuclear power.

The OECD brings together government officials and representatives of business, labour, universities and other non-governmental sectors at the international level.

21.3.4 Canada and the United Nations

Since the inception of the United Nations, support for the UN system has been an integral part of Canadian foreign policy. Canada has played a significant role in the General Assembly, the Security Council and a number of its special committees. In 1986, the General Assembly had 158 members.

On the occasions when military personnel have been dispatched under the UN flag to deal with threats to peace and security, Canada has participated in providing personnel and equipment.

Canada has also served at regular intervals on the third principal organ of the UN, the Economic and Social Council. Generally, two sessions of the Council are held annually, one in New York, in the spring, to discuss social and humanitarian questions, and one in Geneva, in mid-summer, to examine economic questions including food problems and international co-operation.

In recent years, the UN has devoted more time to human rights, and new declarations, conventions and covenants have been promulgated. Canada has encouraged the preparation of such instruments and has stressed building better mechanisms for enforcement of standards.

Canada is among the major contributors to the UN budget. In terms of the overall UN system, including both voluntary and assessed contributions, Canada, in 1986, was the fourth largest contributor. Canada makes voluntary contributions to the United Nations development program, the United Nations high commission for refugees, the United Nations children's fund, the United Nations relief and works agency for Palestine refugees, the world food program, the United Nations institute for training and research, the United Nations educational and training program for southern Africa, the United Nations fund for population activities, the committee on racial discrimination, the trust fund for South Africa and the fund for drug abuse control. The United Nations development program is one of the largest of these, and has a team leadership function in co-ordinating development activities in the UN system.

Canada and disarmament. Canada is an active participant in the principal multilateral disarmament forums: the United Nations first committee, the conference on disarmament in Geneva and the mutual and balanced force reduction talks in