

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.

21.3.5 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 1987, the General Assembly had 157 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.

The UN, with strong Canadian support, continues to devote considerable time and effort to the promotion and protection of human rights. Following the entry into force of the UN Convention Against Torture in 1987, the first meeting of the committee which monitors implementation of the Convention met in April 1988. A draft convention on the rights of the child is under active negotiation and has received the full support of the Canadian government and several provincial authorities, who are active in the process of contributing to Canadian positions in the negotiating process. Canada has also initiated action in the

Commission on Human Rights to ensure more effective implementation of all human rights instruments. Canada was elected to the Commission in 1988 for a three-year term of office which began in January 1989.

Canada has also given strong support to UN efforts to come to grips with the problem of illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse. Canada is a major donor to the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control, and will be participating actively in the Vienna Conference to draft a new international Convention on Illicit Trafficking.

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 1987, 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 all principal multilateral forums, including the United Nations First Committee and Disarmament Commission, the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and the new talks on confidence building and conventional stability in Vienna. Canada also took part in the Stockholm conference on confidence- and security-building measures and disarmament in Europe that concluded in September 1986 with a consensus document containing a set of confidence-building measures in relation to certain kinds of military activity in Europe. Canadian arms control objectives are also pursued through bilateral consultations with countries from East, West and the neutral and non-aligned states that are active in arms control and disarmament affairs. Canada is fully supportive of the objectives of the bilateral US/USSR negotiations on nuclear and space arms in Geneva and is encouraging both parties to come to further agreements in both negotiations.

Canadian priorities in the arms control and disarmament field are: negotiated radical reductions in nuclear forces and the enhancement of