

As at the other sessions African questions occupied the attention of many members in several committees. The decision of the Fourth committee to seat representatives of African liberation movements recognized by the OAU was an unexpected development. Following this, the committee heard the late Amilcar Cabral, leader of the PAIGC in Guinea (Bissau) during its debates. The resolution dealing with Portuguese territories obtained a broad base of support, including that of Canada, which noted the call for negotiations between the principals concerned.

No advance of a very positive nature can be said to have been achieved on some of the long standing major issues which have led to political crises and military confrontations in various parts of the world. The Security Council decision to withhold a recommendation that Bangladesh be admitted to the United Nations disappointed many and as a result a resolution was adopted in Plenary which expressed the desire of the General Assembly that Bangladesh be admitted to membership at an early date. This was paralleled by a resolution calling on the parties to the India-Pakistan dispute to reach a fair settlement of the issues still pending and the return of prisoners of war. The debate on the Middle East was, in the general view, as sterile as feared with repetition of the same views. As last year, the question of Korea was deferred. As had often happened, for political reasons, there was no substantive discussions of political issues such as the admission of the GDR, or of Vietnam, nor was the expulsion of Ugandan Asians placed on the agenda.

On the other hand through the efforts of the Secretary General international terrorism appeared on the agenda as a new item. The delegations of a number of Western governments worked very actively for the adoption of effective measures to curb international terrorist activities but the debate in the Sixth committee became enmeshed in the political controversies surrounding the Middle East and African independence movements. As a result, the resolution adopted on terrorism expressed concern over acts of violence against innocent persons, and the whole problem of terrorism including studies of its underlying causes was referred to a committee set up for the purpose. A vigorous debate thus ended with disappointing results, but a forum has been provided in which Canada can continue to press its views for effective action on this most important question. Other important developments were the decision to hold a Conference on the Law of the Sea in 1974 and the creation of the Special Committee on the World Disarmament Conference.

Thus UNGA XXVII was characterized as low-key and even dull both by participants and by the media. Given the potentially explosive nature of several agenda items, the surface calm may have been the single main accomplishment of the session. While the maintenance of a generally calm atmosphere might be questioned as desirable in the long run, this achievement when linked with more operating efficiency both in Plenary and in Committees (the second was particularly outstanding in this regard) led to higher and more